Car rental concessions for three CNMI airports awarded. PAGE 5
Police CIB reactivates cold-case program. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIX, Issue No. 94

www.saipantribune.com | **TUESDAY** MAY 14, 2019 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Man found dead near school

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man found lying unresponsive by the side of the road near Dandan Middle School early yesterday morning was later declared dead.

According to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Adrian Pangelinan, police responded at about 6:50am yesterday to a report about an unresponsive male individual who was found lying by the side of the road, across a two-story apartment near the school.

The apartment was about 350 meters from Dandan Middle School, according to Google Maps measurements.

Police officers arrived and secured the scene at 6:55am, followed shortly by detectives and medics.

The man was rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center where he

See MAN on Page 4

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The team of scientists, operators, and flight crew led by Arthur Scott Davidson, director of Navigation Support Division of NAVAL Oceanographic Office.
BEA CABRERA

Saipan nautical data gets an update

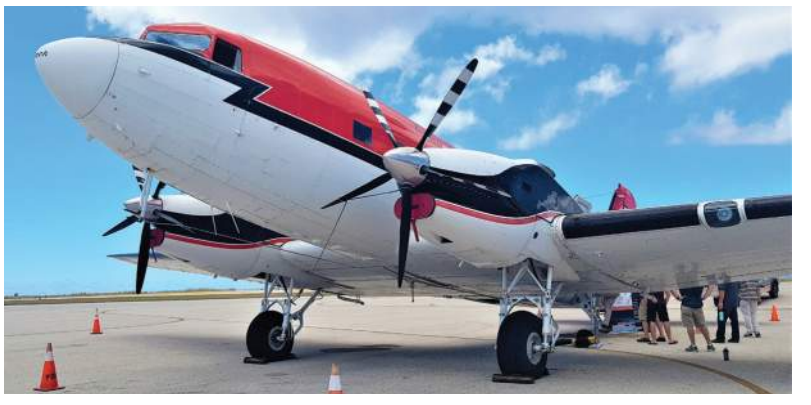
By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Have you seen yet a red-and-white airplane with fixed-wing propellers that has been circling Saipan the past couple of days?

That's called a DC-Turbo aircraft and it is doing a hydrographic survey of Saipan. That means it is collecting data about the Saipan coastline to help mariners and ships sail safely through our waters.

The last hydrographic survey done on Saipan was 10 years ago and many things under the water may have changed since then. A new, updated picture of the Saipan coastline

See SAIPAN on Page 4



The DC-Turbo still stands strong after eight decades in operation and use.
BEA CABRERA

CPA to build larger commuter terminal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will demolish the existing commuter terminal building at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, which Super Typhoon Yutu destroyed last year, and rebuild a new, larger one.

"We will break it down and rebuild," CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio said in an interview during a break at the CPA board meeting Friday.

Under the CPA-funded project, the commuter terminal will be expanded to accommodate a larger holding room, additional airline counters and check-in space, concession space, Customs Border Protection processing areas, and a larger baggage claim area.

Hofschneider Engineering Corp. had estimated that it will cost $427,167 to repair the damaged terminal.

See CPA on Page 4

Default judgment vs Tinian Dynasty owner approved

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has granted a default judgment on the two claims of 15 former foreign workers of the defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino against its owner, Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd.

At a hearing last Thursday afternoon, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the former Tinian Dynasty workers' motion for default judgment for their claims of fraudulent concealment and wrongful termination.

Manglona ordered Samuel Mok, the lawyer of the 15 plaintiffs, to submit revised amounts that they are asking as payment.

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INSIDE

NATION

Heavy rains caused flooding in Mississippi and in neighboring Louisiana.

PAGE 14

ASIA

Filipinos vote in midterm elections seen as a referendum on President Rodrigo Duterte.

PAGE 15

LIFE & STYLRE

At the start of "John Wick 3," Keanu Reeves' character goes up against a towering assassin.

PAGE 19

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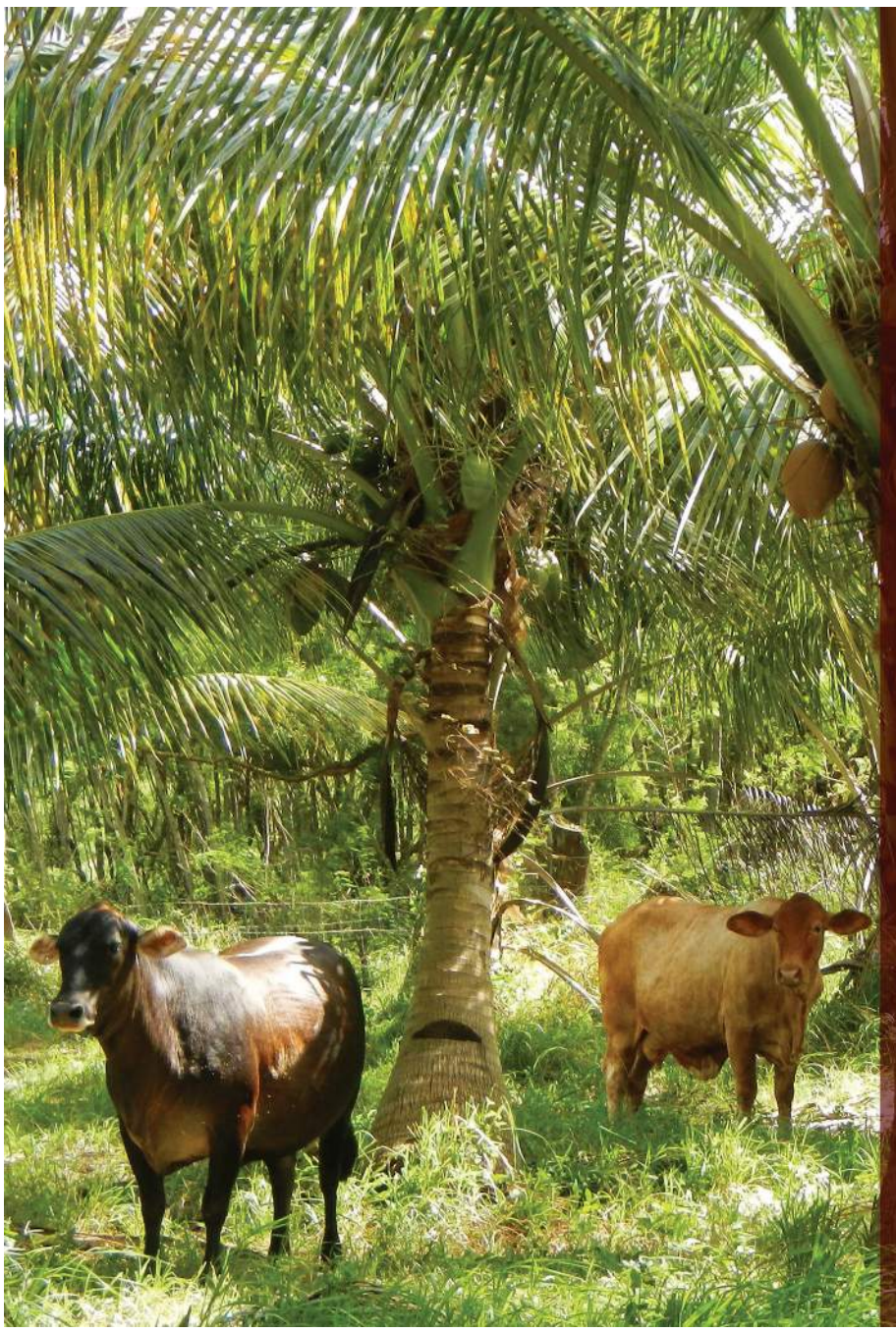
Local

Scheduled power interruptions

- **TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 3 distribution circuit
  - Village location: Gualo Road, Middle Road
  - Power service area(s) affected: Gualo Rai, Middle Road
  - Water service area(s) affected: None
  - Wastewater service area(s) affected: S-6
  - Work to be performed: Straighten three leaning concrete poles
- **TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019 – 7:30am to 6:30pm**
  - Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 4 distribution circuit
  - Village location: Chalan Kanoa
  - Power service area(s) affected: Texas Road, Chalan Kanoa
  - Water service area(s) affected: None
  - Wastewater service area(s) affected: A-11
  - Work to be performed: Replace damaged conductor with new conductors
- **WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019 – 8:30am to 1:30pm**
  - Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - Village location: Dandan
  - Power service area(s) affected: ARFF
  - Water service area(s) affected: None
  - Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - Work to be performed: Replace five wooden poles with concrete ones
- **WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019 – 7:30am to 6:30pm**
  - Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 4 distribution circuit
  - Village location: Chalan Kanoa
  - Power service area(s) affected: Texas Road, Chalan Kanoa
  - Water service area(s) affected: None
  - Wastewater service area(s) affected: A-11
  - Work to be performed: Replace damaged conductor with new conductors
- **WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 2 distribution circuit
  - Village location: As Lito
  - Power service area(s) affected: Chalan Monsignor Martinez, As Lito and As Perdido
  - Water service area(s) affected: As Perdido, As Gonno, Koblerville, San Antonio, Afetnas, Chalan Kanoa, Chalan Piao, Susupe, San Jose and Oleai may be affected due to tank level
  - Wastewater service area(s) affected: A-15
  - Work to be performed: Straighten two leaning concrete poles
- **FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2019 – 8:30am to 1:30pm**
  - Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - Village location: Dandan
  - Power service area(s) affected: ARFF
  - Water service area(s) affected: None
  - Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - Work to be performed: Replace seven wooden poles with concrete ones
- **SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019 – 7:30am to 6:30pm**
  - Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - Village location: San Vicente
  - Power service area(s) affected: Isa Drive (Airport Traffic Light intersection to Laulau Bay Drive)
  - Water service area(s) affected: None
  - Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - Work to be performed: Replace damaged power lines with new power lines

See INTERRUPTIONS on Page 4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Saipan
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10:00AM - 3:00PM
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SARE is a program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that functions through competitive grants conducted cooperatively by farmers, ranchers, researchers and ag professionals to advance farm and ranch systems that are profitable, environmentally sound and good for communities.

MPLT decision depends on DPL

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Public Land Trust board is expected to decide on the line of credit request of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, just as soon as the Department of Public Lands remits more funds to the agency by today.

That comes soon after five MPLT trustees chose to wait for an additional remittance of funds.

MPLT chair Martin B. Ada said the board's decision would depend on the additional transfer from DPL. "We have not yet decided on the numbers…and what to do with the line of credit request. I think everyone [at the MPLT board] want to see the $2.4 million remitted first before we make any decision on the line of credit. We tabled the action on the governor's request for the line of credit."

MPLT legal counsel Robert Torres said the board is only on recess and will resume their meeting today. "There's still a discussion but they are just in recess and there's no action yet. Because DPL is saying they are going to remit $2.4 million; we are going to wait for that," Torres said.

Since September last year, DPL has already transferred over $5.1 million to MPLT as revenues from public land leases.

Including DPL's transfers to MPLT since fiscal year 2016, the remittances now total $8.9 million

DPL promised MPLT that they are going to remit another $2.4 million. That would raise the total amount to more than $7.5 million.

MPLT administrator Bobbie Reyes had also prepared a check of $5.1 million that would be transferred from their Bank of Guam account to MPLT's Raymond James Bank money market account, which would earn it a higher interest.

DPL Secretary Marianne C. Teregeyo, financial adviser and acting Real Estate Division director Richard Villagomez, and Accounting director Evelyn Sablan met with the MPLT board yesterday where they discussed the issue on public land lease transfers.

Teregeyo said DPL personnel have been working hard in making sure that those who use public lands pay the right amount.

Article XI of the CNMI Constitution requires DPL collect revenue from leases of public land and is allowed to retain an amount it needs for expenses. Any remaining funds are to be transferred to MPLT. MPLT is in charge of holding funds transferred from DPL, as custodians of funds for people of Northern Marianas descent. MPLT invests on those funds on behalf of NMDs.

House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) thanked both DPL and MPLT for meeting and "working together to address the issues. Also, I await MPLT's decision on the line of credit so we can work on the legislation feasible for all parties."

Attao introduced House Bill 21-44, which would help the government in addressing its bond obligations and payment to the NMI Settlement Fund.

MCS alumni dinner fundraiser at PIC

The Mount Carmel School is ready to start selling tickets to its annual alumni dinner, to be held at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan this June 21, 2019.

The tickets can be obtained from any alumni or at the business office of the MCS campus in Susupe, according to MCS Alumni Association chair Norisa Camacho.

The event, which also serves as a fundraiser, also functions as a mini-reunion for the alumni batches, said association adviser John Blanco.

"We started this [dinner] on the 60th anniversary of the school," Blanco said. "The whole idea is to bring all of the AlumKnights [MCS alumni] together," he noted.

The renovation of the stage in the MCS field would likely be one of the projects that will be funded by the money raised. The stage was destroyed when Super Typhoon Yutu hit the CNMI in late October 2018.

"We are looking forward to seeing all of our alumni together to celebrate and give back to the school if they want," he added.

Tickets will cost $50 each and may be obtained by contacting any of the MCS Alumni Association officers: Camacho, vice chair Yvonne Pangelinan, secretary Taylor Ada, or treasurer Cathy Sablan.

Even though the event is geared toward MCS alumni, Blanco noted that the event is open to the public and that even students who stayed at MCS at any point of their education on Saipan is invited.

Some other events that would be held during the dinner would be awarding the MCS AlumKnight of the Year; MCS Class of the Year; Legacy Teacher of the Year, the Millennium Falcon Award; Teacher and Staff of the Year, and Parent of the Year.

For those interested in securing tickets in advance, you may call the MCS business office at 235-1251 or 235-1201. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

Guerrero: Police presence lowers crime rate

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero attributes the decreasing number of arrests in the past weeks to police presence in villages.

He said that DPS has been pushing its community programs, including the Community Policing Program, to station more officers in villages

Guerrero said that this has proven to be successful as weekly arrest reports have shown a significant drop.

"Police presence in the community is a deterrence. With more presence in the community, people are hesitant to do things they're not supposed to be doing and our police officers are more aggressive in looking at what is going on in the community," he said.

According to DPS' latest arrest report, the CNMI Department of Public Safety responded to 62 calls on Saipan and made eight arrests this past weekend.

In the previous weekend arrest report, police were dispatched to 60 different calls; the department also made eight arrests.

The weekend prior, DPS was dispatched to 80 calls; the department made 14 arrests.

62 calls to DPS over Mother's Day weekend

This past weekend the CNMI Department of Public Safety responded to 62 calls on Saipan and made eight arrests.

From 11pm on Friday, May 10, through 11pm on Sunday, May 12—a 48-hour period—DPS responded to 911 calls and were dispatched to 62 different calls that included assault and battery, auto-related incident, burglary, disturbing the peace, driving under the influence, injured person, reckless driving, and theft.

DPS would like to remind the public not to hesitate when calling 911. Dispatchers and officers are standing by to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the public. ***(PR)***

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HOUSE SESSION JON PEREZ

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), left, speaks with Rep. Sheila Babauta (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Roman Benavente (R-Saipan), and Rep. Richard Lizama (Ind-Saipan) during a recess in last Thursday's House of Representatives session at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

MAN

From Page 1

was pronounced dead of natural cause at 8:30am.

Because the cause of death was of natural causes, Pangelinan said DPS is unable to disclose the victim's identification, including ethnicity and age, as a form of respect for the family members of the deceased.

Pangelinan explained that the victim was found on the side of the road by an individual walking by. The individual then tried to see if the victim was OK and, after a couple attempts and no response, the individual asked a companion to call 911.

Officers were dispatched to the scene immediately while the Criminal Investigative Bureau and medics followed. Pangelinan added that, according to one officer he had spoken to, there was nothing unusual about the scene.

Saipan Tribune arrived at the scene at about 10am, but it had already been cleared and there were nearly no signs that something had happened there. The only remnants were a couple of pairs of black latex gloves.

Near the scene, a local store owner said she had seen the police surrounding the area at around 6:45am as she was preparing her children for school.

The store owner told *Saipan Tribune* that she did not know the man personally but, customers confirmed that he is not new in the area.

According to a police report about the case, fficers were flagged down at about 6:54am by an individual who claimed to have found the victim lying down. The officers were brought to an individual who was found to be lying on the ground facing up. Officers approached the victim and checked for a pulse; he had none. The officers also noticed the victim's skin was cold to the touch. They immediately notified DPS central to send detectives and crime scene technicians to the scene. The area was then secured and detectives, along with crime scene technicians, arrived shortly after to document the scene.

This was the third lifeless body found on Saipan this year. The two previous ones were found in Kagman and Chalan Kanoa.

CPA

From Page 1

The estimate did not include electrical and mechanical work required for the terminal, according to CPA.

CPA's strategic plan did not indicate as to how much it will cost to build a new commuter terminal building.

Tenorio said CPA's engineering is in the process of doing a request for qualifications for architectural/engineering design services for the demolition of the existing building and construction of a new one.

"We cannot give you the timeline [to finish the project] but we are in the process of doing an RFQ. But we are trying to expedite everything," he said.

The RFQ is expected to be advertised by next month.

The commuter building, which handles inter-island flights between Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, sustained extensive damage when Yutu hit Saipan and Tinian last Oct. 24 and 25. A canopy that leads from the parking lot to the commuter building also collapsed. The terminal has been condemned due to unsafe conditions.

Commuter tenants were then forced for a month to operate in tents placed in the parking lot near the commuter terminal.

The tenants have been transferred to air-conditioned containers converted into offices, where they are still temporarily holding offices until now. The tenants include Star Marianas, Arctic Circle Air, Vertical Air, and LSG Sky Chefs.

DEFAULT

From Page 1

Mok was given until today, Tuesday, to submit a proposed order. She said she will be the one to plug in the numbers.

The plaintiffs have asked the court to hold HKE and Tinian Dynasty's management, Mega Stars Overseas Limited, liable to pay them $4.2 million in damages.

According to the minutes of last week's hearing, Mok informed the court that the default judgment was for HKE only. He also updated the court on the status of Mega Stars.

At the hearing, Mok appeared with two interpreters. Thirteen plaintiffs were present in court while two others appeared by telephone from Japan.

Manglona stated she was inclined to grant the default judgment motion as to the claims of fraudulent concealment and wrongful termination.

Mok then argued in support of his clients' constructive fraud claim. Manglona, however, rejected the lawyer's reading of the statute.

Mok then argued in support of the claims of fraudulent concealment and wrongful termination.

After hearing Mok's arguments, Manglona granted the two claims.

As to the damages, Mok called to the stand all 15 plaintiffs to testify.

After listening to the testimonies, Manglona said she is not inclined to award damages for mental anguish.

Mok argued in support of the claim for mental anguish. Manglona denied the request.

Mok argued that HKE's decision not to retain a lawyer to represent them in this case makes a decision on the merits impossible.

The lawyer said the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 55 explicitly authorizes a court to strike the answer of a corporate defendant and enter default and default judgment if the corporation fails to appear with a lawyer.

The plaintiffs sued HKE and Mega Stars for allegedly lying to them that they were legally authorized to work despite the denial of their CW-1 petitions.

The plaintiffs sued HKE and Mega Stars for fraudulent concealment, constructive fraud, and for negligent misrepresentation and wrongful termination against public policy against HKE.

Mok said majority of the 15 plaintiffs have lived in the CNMI for many years and have children who are U.S. citizens.

Mok said HKE and Mega Stars deliberately and/or negligently withheld information related to the status of their CW-1 petitions in order to keep them from transferring to other employers.

In February 2018, Chun Wai Chan, a corporate representative of both HKE and Mega Stars, informed the court that Tinian Dynasty's operation stopped in August 2015, and when the hotel operation halted in March 2016, it was no longer generating any income.

Chan also informed the court that they could not afford to pay a private counsel in this case.

Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan recently disclosed that the management of Tinian Dynasty is still looking at an opportunity to re-open either as a hotel or just the casino.

SAIPAN

From Page 1

will guide today's mariners on what lurks beneath the waves.

Arthur Scott Davidson, director of Navigation Support Division of NAVAL Oceanographic Office in Mississippi, said that the plane and his 11-man team arrived on Saipan in early May to collect data for the safety of navigation.

"…We work for the [U.S.] Navy and the prepositioned ships that are here wanted updated charts for the shipping industry. …They need modern charts to be able to anchor here and other ships that come in and out… Saipan is the only purview for this survey," he said.

The data collected is then turned over to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who is the charting authority for the Northern Marianas, and it will then update the nautical chart and make these charts available for purchase.

Davidson concedes that collecting the data and interpreting it is a drawn-out process.

"We collect the data here, then data gets back to Mississippi, and a group of scientists will go through it with a fine-toothed comb to make sure it's absolutely right," he said.

The survey done on Saipan 10 years ago was done by a different team.

NOA will compare the results of this latest survey and the last survey and do a comparison..

"They are the ones that will give you an official word on how [the underwater topography has] changed," he said.

To make the data collection fast and accurate, they use an equipment called the Coastal Zone Mapping and & Imaging Lidar System. This tool provides hydrographic nearshore topographic data collection using 10,000 Hz Pulse Rate Laser that is attached to the plane and activated when it flies around the island.

Site lead David Burke is responsible for collating and reviewing all the data. "I manage the flight crew and initial review all data collected before we turn in over to the NAVAL Oceanographic Office data manager.

He assured that the equipment they have can stand the test of the worst environment one can possibly have at the back of the airplane: heat, dust, humidity, and vibration.

His team is made up of highly trained individuals who know the equipment and can troubleshoot on the fly. "They are really the reason why we are able to perform efficiently and get the job done and get the data that we need," Burke said.

Davidson and his team will be on island for 18 days and are ahead of schedule. "Your weather is so beautiful and the airport worked with us so well that we are way ahead of schedule. …We have already collected all the data of water around Saipan and now we are flying over places that the lasers didn't get," he said.

"Part of that was the ships that are anchored. When we flew over them, we got the ship but not what was under it so we plan to fly on a different tide when the ship would've turned, so now we can fly where it used to be and collect that data," he added.

Depending on the day, his team flies out for six hours a day but they can also do eight hours.

For such a significant study on a high-tech expedition, why use an old plane?

"This plane is dedicated to this kind of data collection work," said the plane's pilot, Stephen Kaizer.

With built-in turbine engines, a few modifications to the airframe and new avionics or electrical system, "it's basically a brand new airplane with the old design," Kaizer said.

"There aren't many airplanes that this airplane can do as far as range, capacity, ease of maintenance, and speed go. It's built in the '40s, by a bunch of housewives and you can't beat that," he added.

INTERRUPTIONS

From Page 2

- **SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 1, 2 and 3 distribution circuits
  - Village location: Lower Base
  - Power service area(s) affected: Puerto Rico and Garapan Fishing Base
  - Water service area(s) affected: None
  - Wastewater service area(s) affected: Sadog Tasi Treatment, S-1 and S-3
  - Work to be performed: Replace four wooden poles with concrete ones
- **SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - Village location: Dandan
  - Power service area(s) affected: Dandan Road
  - Water service area(s) affected: None
  - Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - Work to be performed: Straighten 13 leaning concrete poles ***(CUC)***

Car rental concessions for three CNMI airports awarded

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors awarded the car rental concession for the airports on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota during a meeting last Friday.

CPA's goal is to enhance its overall concession program as well as the revenues generated from these concessions for all airports and seaports. The concession categories consist of retail, food and beverage, premium lounges, car rental, and advertising; only the car rental concession was acted upon.

The awarded car rental concessionaires for Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport are National Enterprise Alamo, Budget, Atkins Kroll Toyota, Islander, Hertz Rent A Car, and Avis.

For the Tinian International Airport, the concessionaires are Islander and Avis.

For the Benjamin Taisacan International Airport on Rota, the concessionaires are Islander and Budget.

Barrie C. Toves, the CPA board's airport facilities committee chairman, said in an interview that they have already completed the renovations for car rental booths and awarded the car rental concession for the three islands based on their new concession regulations.

What CPA did was it sent out requests for proposals for all car rental concessions for all airports on three islands.

On Saipan, the board awarded the top six out of seven companies based on the evaluation/selection committee's ranking.

On Tinian and Rota, CPA had three car rental booths per airport but only two responded to the RFPs, Toves said.

"This is a two-year contract," he said, adding that what they did was establish the concession regulations. "We didn't have concession regulations before … Our responsibility…is to award based on the regulations."

Toves

Toves said the creation of the concession regulations kicks in because of CPA's decision to solicit proposals for the duty-free master concession program.

He said they dissected the concession program between the islands and the new regulations now gives CPA more flexibility in terms of negotiating the terms of each of the concession programs like the duty-free, advertisement, food and beverage, and now also the car rental concession.

He said the board put together the concession regulations, adopted it, and now it is enforced.

"So, when we issued out the RFP, we have to follow the concession regulations," he said.

The new concession regulations, Toves said, complies with U.S. federal law on disadvantaged business enterprises.

He explained that all CNMI agencies, including CPA, which receives money from the U.S. Department of Transportation, is required to establish DBE program.

He said it took CPA awhile to implement the DBE program because it requires a sort of a police arm to monitor the DBE program.

Before the creation of the regulations, CPA just followed procurement regulations by issuing an RFP and then evaluating the responses, he said.

The concession regulations now requires all participants of the program to certify that they are going to comply with federal law that requires DBE standards.

He said DBE is a federal law that allows disadvantaged individuals and businesses owned by minorities to participate in the bidding process.

The purpose of DBE program is to increase the participation of certified DBEs in projects funded by the DOT and other federal sectors.

"In the past we didn't have that. Basically, this is the first concession award that is in line with our current and active concession regulations," Toves added.

Leepan: No to salary increases

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan) is opposing moves to increase the annual salaries of some employees under the Office of the Public Defender.

Guerrero, speaking in last week's House of Representatives session, said this is a thing of concern. "I'm kind of concerned that we are at this stage and time where the CNMI cash flow is very short. And yet we continue to receive communication from the administration [about] increasing salaries for an assistant attorney general"

In the Governor's Communication 21-47, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres certified and allowed an annual salary of $60,000 for one assistant public defender—which did not sit well with Guerrero.

"And now we see this for the Public Defender's Office again increasing another assistant public defender to $60,000? If this agency has the money, I think the governor should look into them and take that funding and use it to fill the shortfall of other agencies," he said.

Guerrero said this is not the right time to increase salaries. "It is not right when everybody is hurting and we see a salary increase for lawyers that probably can share the same pain as everybody else," he added.

House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) asked the Committee on Ways and Means, chaired by Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), to look into this issue when they begin deliberations on the CNMI's fiscal year 2020 budget.

"I would to ask the…committee—when you start deliberating on the budget process—to please review line by line on each and every employee's salaries. So we can determine if, in the future, after we adopt the fiscal year 2020 budget, we can trace which agency is subject to a request for an increase of salaries," said Attao.

The committee's budget deliberations and hearings will soon begin after the House also passed House Concurrent Resolution 21-1 that approves the revenues and resources of the CNMI for fiscal year 2020, which begins on Oct. 1 this year.

4 KHS students intern for Pacific Bird Conservation

Four Kagman High School students interned for the Pacific Bird Conservation program, learning the skills needed for bird conservation in the CNMI.

This was the first time for KHS to participate in this program. The four are Jemalynn Iguel, Aria Keilbach, Rayanna Fitial, and Mikayla Fitipol.

According to Keilbach, the experience helped her learn about birds in the CNMI.

"It was an amazing opportunity to experience and to just learn about the birds of our islands and the conservation that deals with protecting them," she said.

The four were taught how to handle birds, catch them, and identify them. They also learned the food preferences of specific birds.

A total of 28 biologists mentored the four students during four consecutive weekends in April and May. The biologists hailed from all over the U.S. in aquariums and zoos. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

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Police CIB reactivates cold-case program

The Criminal Investigative Bureau has reactivated its Special Homicide Activity Resolution Partnership program, with funding assistance from the Criminal Justice Planning Agency.

The SHARP program consists of five detectives from the CIB division and was active from 2006 to 2010, which was then extended up until 2014.

The programs goals and objectives are to reopen cold cases relating to homicide or missing person(s) cases.

By reactivating the SHARP program, these cases get a much more robust look, and get a streamlined approach in looking into homicide cases that have gone cold.

The program, with assistance from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and multiple agencies, was able to solve a homicide case that took place in 2012.

The program will be looking into cold cases dating back to 1977.

It will simultaneously look into many homicide and missing person(s) cases, including the 1995 homicide case of a female found near the Marpi shoreline, the 1997 robbery homicide of Marsha Kim, the 2016 homicide of Li, Qiang Ding, and the 2014 disappearance of the Yamada sisters.

CIB would like to encourage the public to report any information or details regarding any cold case by reaching out to Lt. Simon Manacop at 664-9042. If you wish to remain anonymous, do not hesitate to call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. ***(PR)***

Kang is named overall winner at Guam science fair

From left, Nick Carter Duhaylungsod, Division 1 overall winner; Dr. Phil Dauterman, president, Guam Science and Discovery Society; Jay Whitman, Division 2 overall winner; Roland San Nicolas, head librarian, UOG RFK Library; Vaishnavi Khandelwal, Division 3 overall winner; Carlos Taitano; Daniel Kang, Division 4 overall winner; Dr. Frank Camacho, associate professor, UOG College of Natural and Applied Sciences; Claudia Taitano, secretary, Guam Science and Discovery Society; and Dr. Austin J. Shelton III, director, UOG Sea Grant.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Four students in Guam ruled the 41st Annual Islandwide Science Fair, which drew more than 400 participants from Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands last May 11 at the University of Guam science building.

Daniel Kang, a junior at John F. Kennedy High School, was named the High School (Division 4) overall winner with a science project whose title was quite a mouthful: "Novel Graphene Nanoplatelet and Ketjenblack Embedded Pigmentless Acrylic Emulsions for Next Generation Flexible Electronics."

As his prize, Kang will attend NASA Space Camp with the assistance of major sponsors, including Marianas Energy Co., IP&E Shell Guam, and the UOG Sea Grant and Guam EPSCoR programs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kay Angelo C. Rivera of Santa Barbara Catholic School, presenting his science fair project, "What's the Spill?"

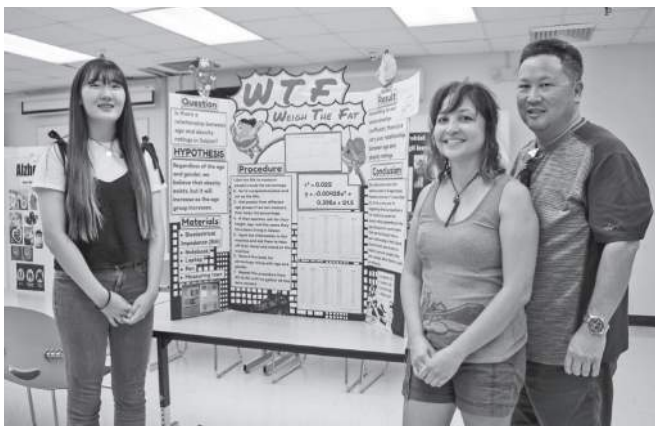
The Middle School (Division 3) overall winner was Vaishnavi Khandelwal, an 8th grader at St. John's School, with a project titled "Analyzing The Antimicrobial Properties of Murraya Koenigii Leaves."

Jay Whitman, in 5th Grade at Andersen Elementary School, was the overall winner in Grades 3-5 (Division 2), with a project titled, "Our World of Bacteria."

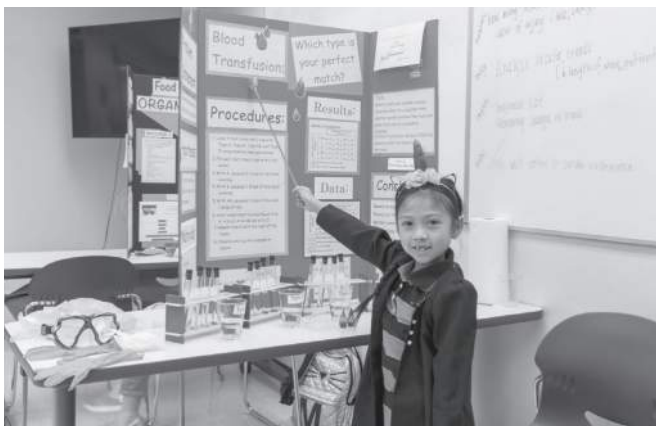
Nick Carter Duhaylungsod, in second grade at Santa Barbara Catholic School, was the overall winner in Grades K-2 (Division 1) with a project called, "Salty and Bright."

Other division and category winners will receive trophies and additional prizes at the awards ceremony to be held 6pm on May 25, 2019, at the Guam Hilton Resort & Spa.

Novel inventions and exciting experiments lined the classrooms and hallways as the participants representing public, private and Department of Defense Education Activity schools competed in the science fair. ***(Saipan Tribune)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Iris Lee of Saipan Southern High School and family, with her project, "Weigh the Fat."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Xylah Limtuaco of Machananao Elementary School, with her project: "Blood Transfusion: Which Type is Your Perfect Match?"

'Bachelor degree in criminal justice would improve policing in the CNMI'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is confident that the new bachelor's degree in criminal justice program at the Northern Marianas College would help improve law enforcement in the CNMI.

DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero believes it would benefit the islands' police force.

"Like any other career, when you start off with a two-year program and extend it to a four-year program, of course you get more out of the education system and that would [improve] our officers," he said.

One of the improvements Guerrero expects to see in CNMI police officers who undergo the program is in report writing.

"As with any crime, it's always the report of a police officer that makes or breaks a case, so the criminal justice program that our police officers will go through will improve their report writing and this will give them more course to avail of and make their law enforcement career a more…competitive [one]," he said.

The new bachelor's degree program in criminal justice was established through a memorandum of agreement signed between NMC and the University of Guam last Thursday.

At one point, an increase in the salary of officers with a bachelor's degree was mentioned but Guerrero said that's not certain.

"I'm not sure about the pay because that's regulated by the Civil Service Commission," he added.

Guerrero said he would still encourage his officers to take the program to elevate their education.

"We've been pushing our officers to take more courses. …With this program here, they can avail of them here at NMC so this is a plus for them. Since the program is here, they can be working and taking courses at the same time," he said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PTSA meeting for Kagman schools

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that Kagman schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting today, May 14, at 5:30pm in the Kagman High School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents and guardians to attend this meeting. Child care will be provided, awards will be given to the calendar entry winners and more. Call the school at 237-3921, 6644100, or 664-3911 if you have any questions or concerns. ***(PR)***

GCC offers free Construction Boot Camp

The Guam Community College is offering a free Construction Boot Camp for the first 25 registrants. The six-week training cycle will begin on May 20 through July 2, 2019, from 8am to 4 pm at the GCC campus.

The Future Builders of Guam-Construction Boot Camp will focus on carpentry, welding, electrical, basic blueprint reading, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning. Participants will be eligible to earn nationally recognized certifications in these areas and be able to earn a National Career Readiness Certification, OSHA-10 Certificate, and CPR/Basic First Aid.

You must be a high school graduate or have your GED in addition to having your health clearance to be eligible. Seats are limited, so hurry and register today. For more information, contact Pilar Williams at (671) 735- 0205 or email pilar.williams@guamcc.edu. ***(PR)***

Guam CHamoru commission meetings set

The Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nå'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tåno' (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold a meeting on May 23, Thursdays, from 12:30pm to 3pm., at the Garden House, Plasa de Espana, in Hagåtña. A work session will also be held on May 16, from 12:30pm to 3pm at the same venue. For more information contact kumisión chair/gé'helo' Hope Alvarez Cristobal at 483-0097 or secretary/sikritåria Rosa Salas Palomo at 727-5522. ***(PR)***

JKPL, Bookmobile closed for inventory

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and Bookmobile Outreach Services will be closed for five days for inventory, from May 14 to May 18, 2019. All penalties for items due during this period will be waived. We ask the public for your cooperation in utilizing library programs and services in the days not covered by inventory. ***(PR)***

Safety 1st Systems sues former manager

A company that sells, services, and inspects safety equipment in the Commonwealth has sued its former manager/equipment inspector who, while still employed with the firm, allegedly put up a competing company using his wife as front.

Safety 1st Systems CNMI LLC is suing Ketson Jack Kabiriel for breach of agent's fiduciary duty of loyalty, breach of contract of employment, breach of contract of non-competition, violation of the CNMI Consumer Protection Act, conversion, and unjust enrichment.

Safety 1st Systems, through counsel Joseph E. Horey, asked the Superior Court to hold Kabiriel liable to pay damages, restitution, court costs, and attorney's fees.

Safety 1st Systems also asked the court to stop Kabiriel from engaging in business that will compete with the company until March 1, 2020.

It wants Kabiriel to return allegedly wrongfully converted property.

Safety 1st Systems owner Richard A. Pierce declined to speak about the lawsuit, saying it is now a matter before the court.

As of press time, *Saipan Tribune* was still trying to obtain comments from Kabiriel.

According to the complaint filed last week, Kabiriel was with Safety 1st Systems from 1999 until March 1, 2019.

Horey said that, in March 2016, Safety 1st Systems and Kabiriel came to an agreement, wherein Kabiriel would continue working for Safety 1st Systems for at least one more year and that, after his employment, he would not compete with plaintiff's business for at least one year.

Safety 1st Systems now accuses Kabiriel of breaching that oral agreement, saying that Kabiriel, while still employed by Safety 1st Systems, directly competed with it on behalf of a new company called Pacific BlazeTech Service in late 2015 or early 2016.

Horey said that Kabiriel's wife, Patrinicia, was initially a 50-percent partner and later a sole proprietor of Pacific BlazeTech.

Beginning at this time, Horey said, Kabiriel contacted Safety 1st Systems' customers and inspected their fire extinguishers for Pacific BlazeTech, affixing a tag or sticker to the extinguishers indicating that they had been inspected by Pacific BlazeTech, and collecting the payment for Pacific BlazeTech.

In some instances, Kabiriel allegedly informed customers that he was inspecting their fire extinguishers, and collecting their payment, as a representative of Pacific BlazeTech rather than as a representative of Safety 1st Systems.

On at least one occasion, Horey said, Kabiriel gave a customer a price quotation for inspection services on behalf of Safety 1st Systems, then later provided a customer a price quotation for the same service on behalf of Pacific BlazeTech, advising the customer the Pacific BlazeTech could do the same work just as well as plaintiff, and less expensively.

Horey said that several customers, who understood Kabiriel to be Safety 1st Systems' employee, went to the plaintiff's shop for inspection of certain equipment, unaware that Kabiriel did the prior inspection of the same equipment on behalf of Pacific BlazeTech.

On at least one occasion, during his employment with plaintiff, Kabiriel allegedly submitted a competitive bid on behalf of Pacific BlazeTech for a contract servicing and inspecting a customer's fire extinguishers, while neglecting to submit a bid for the same contract on behalf of Safety 1st Systems.

Kabiriel allegedly used his familiarity with Safety 1st Systems' confidential business information, including business plan, lists of suppliers and customers, catalogs of equipment, pricing systems, customers' inspection schedules, and overall familiarity with customers' particular needs and concerns, to do business for Pacific BlazeTech.

Horey said in late 2018, Kabiriel entered into discussions, leading to an agreement, with a person whereby Kabiriel would continue with his competitive business activity, but would shift its operations from Pacific BlazeTech to a company controlled by that person.

The person would open a shop and do business under the name Safety Management System, from which shop Kabiriel would allegedly operate.

Horey said that last March 1, Kabiriel quit working for the Safety 1st Systems.

From that time until the present, Kabiriel has allegedly acted as sales representative and equipment inspector for Safety Management System, while Safety Management System has engaged in the business of sales and service and inspection of safety equipment for the home and workplace.

During that time, Horey said, Kabiriel has sold, services, and inspected, and continues to sell, service, and inspect, workplace safety equipment in direct competition with Safety 1st Systems.

The lawyer said Kabiriel has "willfully engaged in acts and practices which are unfair or deceptive to the consumer, all in violation of the CNMI Consumer Protection Act." ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

HANMI GOLF TOURNEY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joseph Jones, third from right, and Mariyn Jones, third from left, donate $1,200 on May 9, 2019, in Kagman to the 18th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament. The donation was received by tournament committee chair Steve Balakrishnan and committee member Das Krishnan. The tournament itself was held last Saturday.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-019

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF CHLORINE GAS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Chlorine Gas for Saipan, Tinian & Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$100.00** for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-19-019, Supply & Delivery of Chlorine Gas"* to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 17, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 1, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, CUC Water Division, Jr. Engineer via email address-yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email address – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-020

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF TWO SLUDGE DEWATERING EQUIPMENT'S

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the purchase of two Sludge Dewatering Equipment's; one for the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (5) hard copies, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-19-020, Supply and Delivery of Two Sludge Dewatering Equipment's"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than May 23, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 10, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

RETURN FROM DEPLOYMENT GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

Six Guam Guard airmen from the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Security Forces Squadron returned home early Saturday morning, May 11, from a deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. The airmen were tasked with the protection of federal property from hazards such as sabotage, espionage, trespass, theft, fire, and accident or willful damage and destruction; and to maintain law and order, preserve the peace, and protect life and civil rights within the U.S. Central Command Theater of Operations. The six pose for a photo with the Guam National Guard leadership soon after arriving early morning Saturday, May 11.

Sendoff ceremony held for deploying Guam Guard soldiers

A mobilization ceremony was held on Saturday, May 11, to bid farewell to deploying soldiers from the Guam National Guard.

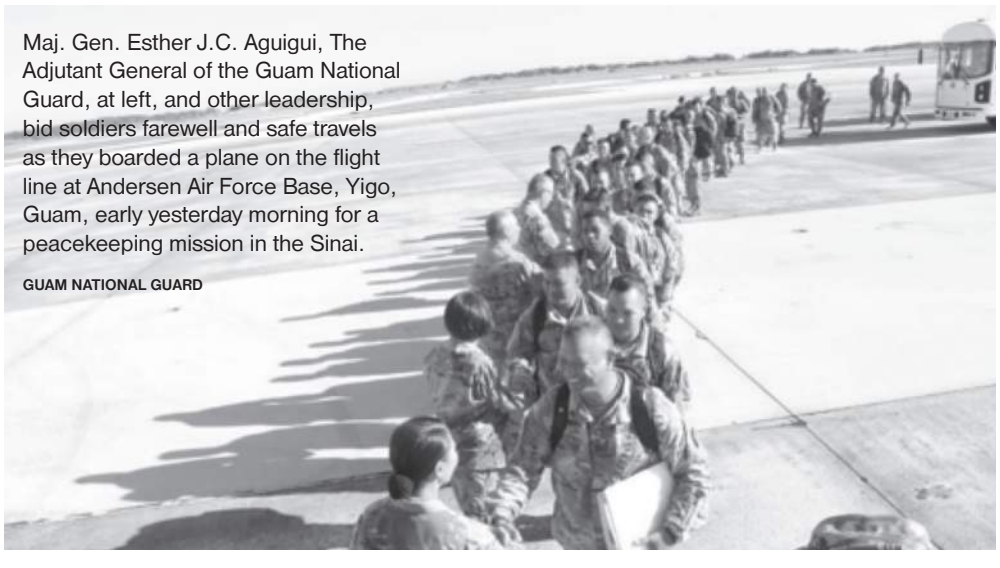
Overseas deployments continue with soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment departing in support of a peacekeeping mission in the Sinai Peninsula.

The Guam soldiers will be part of a Multinational Force and Observers team, consisting of about 12 countries, who supervise the implementation of the security provisions of the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli Treaty of Peace and employ best efforts to prevent any violation of its terms.

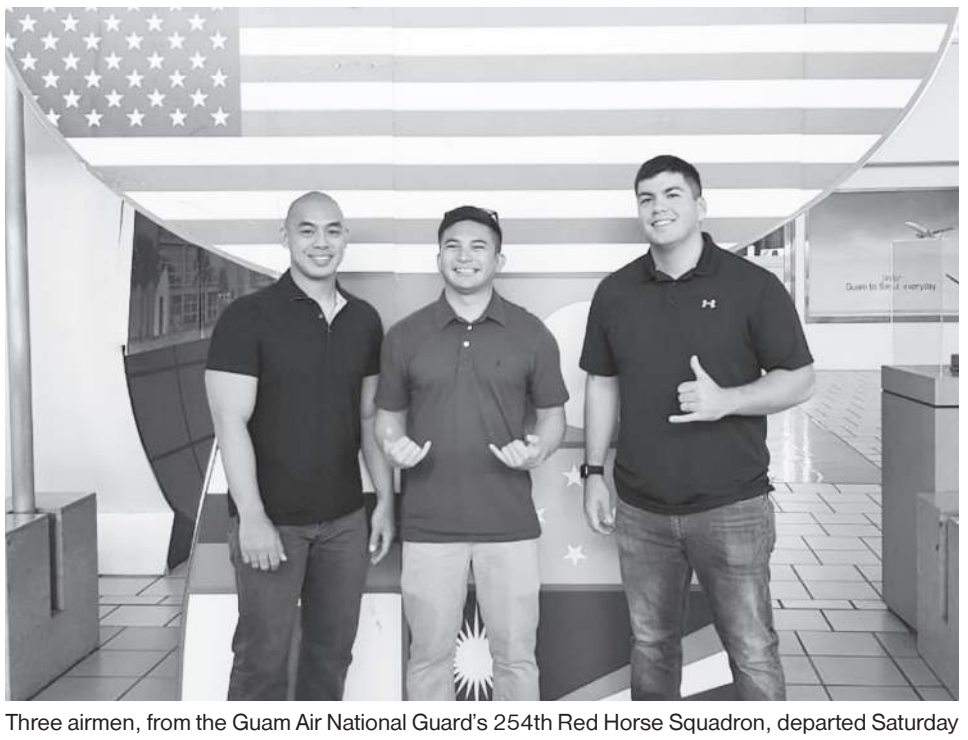
As always, the Guam National Guard asks the public for their continued support as this mobilization will also have a significant impact on the Guam National Guard who join more than 50 airmen who are still deployed abroad in support of Operations Inherent Resolve and Freedom Sentinel.

"We appreciate the people of Guam, especially their employers, for their continued support of our members and their families," said Maj. Gen. Esther J.C. Aguigui, The Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard. "Please keep all our members in your thoughts and prayers now and for the duration of their missions." ***(PR)***

Maj. Gen. Esther J.C. Aguigui, The Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard, left, and other leadership, bid soldiers farewell and safe travels as they boarded a plane on the flight line at Andersen Air Force Base, Yigo, Guam, yesterday morning for a peacekeeping mission in the Sinai. GUAM NATIONAL GUARD



Maj. Gen. Esther J.C. Aguigui, The Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard, at left, and other leadership, bid soldiers farewell and safe travels as they boarded a plane on the flight line at Andersen Air Force Base, Yigo, Guam, early yesterday morning for a peacekeeping mission in the Sinai. GUAM NATIONAL GUARD



Three airmen, from the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Red Horse Squadron, departed Saturday morning, en route to Israel for a "Deployment for Training" mission where they will perform engineering construction support. GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

Guam Guard airmen depart for Israel

Three airmen, from the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Red Horse Squadron, departed Saturday morning, en route to Israel for a "Deployment for Training" mission.

They will be performing engineering construction support at Hatzor Air Force Base, Israel, for a period of six weeks

As always, the National Guard asks the public for their continued support as this mobilization will also have a significant impact on the Guam National Guard who join more than 200 soldiers and 50 airmen who are still deployed abroad in support of Operations Inherent Resolve and Freedom Sentinel. ***(PR)***

Soldiers, from the Guam Army National Guard's 1st-294th Infantry Regiment, pose for a photo at Fort Apugan, Agana Heights, on Saturday, May 11, following a command run through the village of Hagatna and Agana Heights. GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

NMI High Court vacates DOC officer's assault conviction

The Supreme Court has vacated the assault and battery conviction of Department of Corrections officer Ray A. Camacho, saying the trial court erred in the matter.

The CNMI High Court issued its opinion in *Commonwealth v. Camacho* on May 10, 2019, with a finding that the trial court had incorrectly interpreted the mens rea, or criminal intent, requirement of the statute.

Camacho sought the High Court's review after the trial court issued its sentencing order and found him guilty of assault and battery, in violation of 6 CMC § 1202(a).

Camacho's conviction stemmed from an incident that occurred while he was on duty at DOC.

One evening, an inmate buzzed DOC staff over the facility's intercom, requesting medication. Camacho responded to the inmate; after a verbal exchange in which the inmate failed to comply with at least one of his oral commands, Camacho grabbed the inmate by the neck and forced him onto the floor. Following the incident, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands charged Camacho with assault and battery.

Because the statute required that the force used be unlawful, and Camacho had some authority to use force by virtue of his position, the Commonwealth was tasked with proving that the force Camacho used was against law, regulation, or order of DOC.

The trial court scrutinized an internal DOC training policy created to guide officers in using appropriate levels of force that prohibited chokeholds and blows to the head, face, and neck. The trial court found Camacho's actions to be in violation of this policy and therefore unlawful, convicting him of assault and battery. The Supreme Court reviewed Camacho's conviction.

Camacho disputed the trial court's application of Section 1202(a)'s criminal intent element, claiming the statute requires that he have knowledge of the facts that make his conduct illegal.

The Supreme Court undertook to construe the statute, examining its plain language and tools of statutory construction and mens rea application, as well as the Model Penal Code's guidance and states' applications of the MPC's mens rea principles. Importantly, it found that although ignorance of the law is usually no excuse, a legislature's insertion of an element of unlawfulness makes knowledge of the law a requirement of the crime. The High Court thus read a mens rea of knowingly into the assault and battery statute. Because the trial court did not consider Camacho's knowledge of his authority—or lack of it—to apply force to the inmate, it improperly applied the statute to him. The court's failure to consider Camacho's criminal intent was fatal to his conviction.

As a result, because the Supreme Court found the trial court improperly analyzed the mens rea required to be guilty of assault and battery, it vacated Camacho's conviction.

The High Court's full opinion is available at http://www.cnmi-law.org/supreme19.html. ***(PR)***

A FRIEND OF TINIAN CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Friend of San Jose Parish vice chair Richard Lazaro, right, shakes hands with TanHoldings Corp. chief executive officer Jerry Tan after their group received $100,000 from the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for the rebuilding of the San Jose Parish Social Hall.

NMC also affected by NMI government austerity

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College is not exempted from the government-wide austerity measures that are currently being implemented.

Interim NMC president Frankie Eliptico said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* that non-instructional staff at the CNMI college had their biweekly hours cut by 10 percent, or eight hours, in response to the austerity measures that have been put in place to cope with revenue cuts.

Eliptico assured, though, that no classes will be affected.

All NMC classes scheduled for the spring 2019 semester will also continue as scheduled.

"The aim of these austerity measures is not only to reduce spending but, more importantly, to continue NMC's commitment to students and its high-quality programs and services while exercising fiscal responsibility to avoid any budget deficit due to reduced budget allocation from the CNMI government," he said.

Eliptico noted that employees earning less than $25,000 a year are exempt from the austerity measures, as well as federally-funded employees and instructional faculty.

In a March 22, 2019, letter to Eliptico, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that a 15-percent funding cut would be implemented by April 1, 2019.

That 15-percent reduction translates to about $400,000 less appropriated to the college for the remainder of fiscal year 2019, according to Eliptico.

According to Public Law 20-67, NMC is appropriated a total of $5.2 million for the fiscal year. Eliptico did not disclose how much the college has already received since the beginning of fiscal year 2019 and how much of their budget remains for the fiscal year.

NMC Cash for College workshops

Students who are looking for help in finding money to pay for college are encouraged to attend the upcoming Cash for College workshops hosted by Northern Marianas College.

At the workshops, participants will be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing especially on forms for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, CNMI Scholarship, Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, Tinian Municipal Scholarship, Rota Municipal Scholarship, and the TEACH Grant. Workshop participants can also have their financial aid documents notarized and photocopied, all without any charges or fees.

The Cash for College event will be held on Rota, Saipan, and Tinian on the following dates:

ROTA

- **May 16, 2019:** Dr. Rita Inos Jr. High School, 10am-12pm; and NMC Rota Center, 1pm - 4pm
- **May 17, 2019:** NMC Rota Center 8am - 12pm

SAIPAN

- **May 25, 2019:** NMC campus, 9am-12pm

TINIAN

- **May 30, 2019:** NMC Tinian Center, 10am - 2pm

Staff members from the college's Office of Admissions and Records will also be present to provide information and assistance with the NMC admission application process.

In addition, those who participate in the workshop will qualify to have their NMC application fee and placement test fees waived for the upcoming fall 2019 semester. This waiver represents a savings of up to $75

Although not required, it is recommended that workshop participants bring a valid form of identification (e.g., a valid U.S. passport, copy of valid application for a U.S. passport, birth certificate, or green card), an official transcript from high school (at least three official copies), copy of 2017 and 2018 1040, copy of 2017 and 2018 W-2 (if not filing), and proof of CNMI residency, including proof of continuing residency. Applicants for SHEFA should bring a valid U.S. passport or a voter registration card.

For additional information, contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 237-6792 or email daisy.propst@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 Facsimile (670)236-9797

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP19-JUDICIARY-06

SUBMISSION DATE: June 13, 2019 TIME: 3:00 P.M.

"LIGHTING AND ELECTRICAL REPAIRS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, WINDOW #1, LOCATED AT THE FRONT GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
Chief Justice

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
Judiciary Procurement Officer

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
for
RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking your comments on the following proposed amendment (rezone) to the Official Saipan Zoning Map. RJCL Corporation dba RNV Corporation is requesting to rezone Lots # EA 109 NEW-1 in Chalan Kiya, from "Village Residential" to "Village Commercial" zoning district.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Thursday, June 13, 2019
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, June 12, 2019. Please send written comments via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Joe E. Ayuyu, Jr., Acting Chairman

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp I Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Board Meeting as scheduled on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan is has been postponed until further notice. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes (February 28, 2019 and continued on March 07, 2019)

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
   a. Division Update Reports

IV. OLD BUSINESS
   a. Personnel Regulations
   b. Procurement Regulations
   c. RFP for CNMI Fair Market Study

V. NEW BUSINESS
   a. Family Self-Sufficiency Program Grant
   b. CDBG-DR Staffing Capacity
   c. RFP CDBG-DR Action Plan
   d. FEMA Grant Applications

VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. OTHER MATTERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **Aubry M. Hocog**
Chairwoman of the Board

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 94
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

On the depressing new UN report on life on Earth

It's hard to feel anything but a wave of bleak futility upon reading the revelations from the forthcoming 1,500-page United Nations report on the state of life on Earth. Nearly 150 authors from 50 countries synthesized the findings of thousands of scientific papers and found that due to human activity, the planet's species are disappearing at a rate "tens to hundreds times higher than the average over the last 10 million years."

Some 1 million species, including 40 percent of all amphibians, 33 percent of corals and 10 percent of insects, are at risk of extinction over the next few decades. The mind reels at the variety of life in peril, not to mention the cascading effects on precious ecosystems.

While we consider what mankind can do to rescue fellow creatures on our pale blue dot, we add one quiet prayer: If other species must go extinct, please let the 3,500 varieties of mosquito go first. And throw in the bedbug too.

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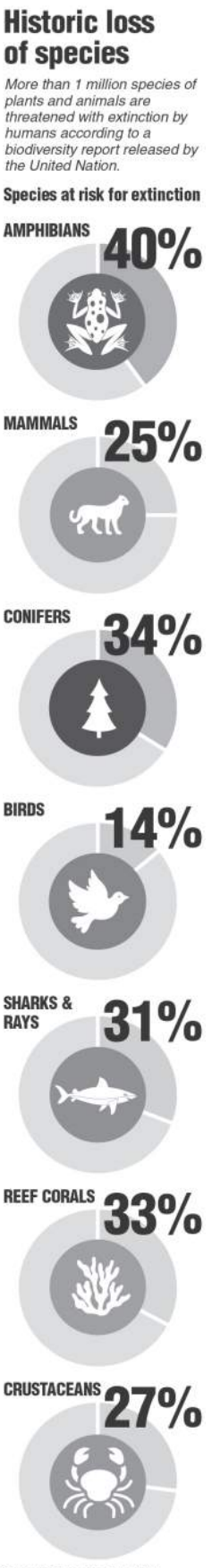

Historic loss of species
More than 1 million species of plants and animals are threatened with extinction by humans according to a biodiversity report released by the United Nation.
Species at risk for extinction
AMPHIBIANS 40%
MAMMALS 25%
CONIFERS 34%
BIRDS 14%
SHARKS & RAYS 31%
REEF CORALS 33%
CRUSTACEANS 27%
Source: AP, International Union for Conservation of Nature
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Americans don't trust their fellow Americans

By TYLER COWEN
Bloomberg News

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog Marginal Revolution. His books include Big Business: A Love Letter to an American Anti-Hero.

Americans' trust in their government is abysmally low, according to both survey data and a more subjective reading of opinions about President Donald Trump and Congress. I hold a contrarian view: Trust in the actual operations of government is pretty high, and the real growing mistrust is of each other.

Consider first that the Trump administration's record spending and deficits don't seem all that unpopular, even among those who detest Trump or might favor different spending priorities. No major candidate is campaigning on a platform of fiscal responsibility and restraint, and that is a sign of high trust in government.

Now consider the largest government programs. Medicare is one of them, and most Americans end up quite literally trusting their lives to it. It is a highly popular program, and there is even talk of "Medicare for All." Such a radical reform probably won't happen, but that is because it might cost a lot or cause people to lose their private insurance—not because Medicare is disliked. Even fiscal conservatives who oppose the current program as financially unsustainable recognize that the problem stems from Medicare's popularity, and the willingness to spend more money on it.

Medicaid traditionally has been less universally embraced than Medicare. Nevertheless, more and more states are jumping on the Medicaid expansion bandwagon, an indication of growing trust in the program and the ability of government to finance better health care for people.

Defense spending is another large part of the federal budget, and in polls Americans express a high level of trust in the military.

Social Security is one program facing real confidence issues. Many Americans express uncertainty about whether they will receive their promised level of benefits, with some justification, as there could be cuts in benefit trajectories. That does count as a real trust gap. Still, if you look at savings behavior, Americans' aren't showing many signs of panic. The U.S. continues to have a lower household savings rate than most other OECD nations.

Finally, interest rates on government debt have been remarkably low for years, probably the single best measure of trust in a government; less trusted countries such as Argentina and Turkey have to pay very high interest rates to borrow. The recent rise in U.S. rates is due more to an economic expansion than to rising fears of default.

So when you survey the actual activities of the U.S. federal government, you find a lot of them seem to be remarkably well-trusted. I would make exceptions for Obamacare (but only with some voters) and the so-called "Deep State" (again, only with some voters). It is striking that while people complain about the TSA and its procedures, they seem to think it is keeping air travel safe, and most Americans do not hesitate to fly. Even the complaints about the Deep State seem to come in partisan areas related to Trump, not the activities of the CIA and NSA in general.

So why then do the polls show such low trust in government? Maybe it is that many of the visible personal manifestations of the government are trusted less. This trend is easiest to see with the extremely mixed and atypically low approval ratings for Trump. But this is not the same as low trust in government per se.

In reality, as people get older, they rely on government for more and more. While that is indeed a form of trust, it also increases anxiety about those in charge, and their values and priorities. The higher level of anxiety exists precisely because there is, for better or worse, greater dependence. Don't confuse the resulting nervousness with a lack of trust.

Furthermore, the data show that politically active, ideologically charged Americans trust each other less than they used to. Many Democrats and Republicans do not want their children to marry into the other political party, for instance, and these preferences are growing stronger. So when one branch of the government is affiliated with one of the parties, as it inevitably is, members of the other party will voice a low level of trust. But their complaint may be about the supporters of that branch of the government as much as the government itself.

When it comes to the actual activities of the federal government, trust in America is alive and well. The question, as ever, is whether the government deserves that trust.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The path to a fair and open internet

By HENRY A. WAXMAN
Los Angeles Times

Henry A. Waxman, a past chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, represented California's 33rd Congressional District from 1975 to 2015. He is chairman of Waxman Strategies and an advisor to NCTA, the Internet & Television Assn., and Comcast.

Since the rise of the internet, there have been concerns that the dominance of a relatively small number of internet service providers could potentially threaten its open nature. I sought to prevent that outcome during my time in Congress by writing principles of net neutrality into law.

Under net neutrality, ISPs would be prohibited from blocking, throttling and allowing for paid prioritization of content. In other words, they could not prevent subscribers from accessing websites, slow down or speed up websites, or receive payment from content providers seeking to put particular websites or content "first in line."

While we have come close to this goal, we have not yet achieved it. Instead, for more than 15 years, policymakers have been locked in an epic arm-wrestling match over net neutrality.

That long delay and the need for resolution have created new momentum for Congress to act. I urge my former colleagues to reach bipartisan consensus and focus on locking in gains now rather than waiting until after the 2020 election.

Back in 2010, when I chaired the House Energy and Commerce Committee, we worked painstakingly to craft a net neutrality bill that would win bipartisan support. We brought competing industry and consumer groups together to forge a compromise that settled questions about how to keep the internet open.

The draft bill—it was never introduced—was far from perfect. It was based on the status of the industry at that time, for example, making distinctions between wireless and wired broadband rules that should not be made today, 10 years later. But it had broad support, and it would have created a baseline for net neutrality.

Unfortunately, House Republican leaders backed out. They knew they were likely to take control of the House and could rather write their own bill—or no bill—later. Republicans indeed took the House in 2010 and then failed to produce a bill.

Congressional inaction forced regulators to fill the void.

First, the Federal Communications Commission tried to adopt regulations using its existing authority under the law. However, the D.C. Court of Appeals invalidated these rules, finding that they went beyond what the law permitted the agency to do. Then, in 2015, under the leadership of Chairman Tom Wheeler, the FCC's approach was to reclassify ISPs as common carriers under Title II of the Communications Act, providing a jurisdictional hook for enforcing net neutrality rules without further action by Congress. I supported this action, but because of worries that the common carrier classification could open ISPs to further controls, others objected.

When the Trump administration took office, its chosen FCC chairman, Ajit Pai, quickly moved to repeal the Wheeler FCC rules. That action is now being challenged in the courts. To their credit, Democrats are not waiting for a court decision but are trying to bring legislative order to what has become persistent regulatory turbulence.

Key members of my old committee have introduced and passed through the House of Representatives the Save the Internet Act to restore regulations from 2015. I would have voted for this bill, but there's one problem: It will probably die in the Senate in light of partisan opposition. History, I fear, is repeating itself.

And yet there are signs a legislative effort can gain sufficient Republican support. This is not based on wishful thinking, but rather on the express positions and actions of key Republicans. For example, Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), working with Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.), recently launched a bipartisan working group on net neutrality that could attract like minds and offer fresh approaches to settle this issue conclusively.

Net neutrality is one of an ever-growing list of communications policy issues that demand action by policymakers, including measures to expand rural broadband, deal with the growing concentration of economic power in digital industries, protect consumer privacy and secure cyberspace. These are the issues that will define the next decade and the next century. Let's get net neutrality done now and bring certainty to how an open internet will be achieved across the country.

This battle should have been resolved a decade ago. It should fester no longer.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Why is the CNMI still in the same mess that we have been since we began to govern ourselves in 1978?

Former chief justice Jose S. Dela Cruz of the Supreme Court, in his column, "The downturn in the CNMI economy: a continuing uncertainty," that was published Monday, May 6, 2019, highlighted a fundamental community issue. He asked, "Why is the CNMI still in the same mess that we have been since we began to govern ourselves in 1978?"

I was challenged by the premise of the article which encouraged me to present a likely explanation. This presentation is in the context of a two- party system needed in a representative democracy. In the case of the CNMI, we have two dominant and legally recognized political organizations: the Democratic Party and the Republican Party that have been incorporated since 1958, at least for the Democratic Party.

For purposes of this presentation, let's take the date 1978. This date is significant for two historical reasons. First because it was at that time when the people of the Commonwealth, through a negotiated Covenant for self-government, started exercising the earned privilege of governing ourselves. Second because it was a Democratic Party governor, Carlos S. Camacho, who was responsible for instituting the structures of our constitutional government.

One can expect that, in a transitional process of such magnitude, unexpected or unanticipated situations or events would usually cause confusion and indecisiveness during critical moments of any transitional administration. This, however, was not the case with the Camacho administration; there were bumps here and there but the transition was implemented relatively well. Gov. Camacho finished his transitional administration without any major horrific acts of misconduct or accusation of self-enrichment.

"Relatively well" was not a description that characterized the first Commonwealth Legislature, which was controlled by Republicans. As a matter of fact, it was a contentious beginning for the supposed-to-be august body, because one of the first surprising legislations pushed by the Republican House leadership was for a casino establishment on Saipan. This was very divisive, controversial and unexpected legislation.

The reason this ill-conceived Republican pipe dream didn't muster enough votes to pass was due to fierce opposition and relentless lobbying by the Democratic Party Ladies Association. The association was a very powerful and influential grassroot organization within the Democratic Party back then. Sadly though, the Republican Party started off on the wrong side of history because some members were subsequently implicated in criminal conduct and incarcerated.

The succeeding years after 1981 were dreadful for the Democratic Party organization and devastating for its members. An unresolved split between Gov. Camacho and Sen. Herman R. Guerrero, who ran against each other during the gubernatorial election of 1981, inflicted prolonged emotional pain within the membership. Thankfully, Gov. Camacho and Sen. Guerrero are united again today in their commitment to end the malfeasance, mismanagement, secrecy, dishonesty, self-interest, and outright corruption of government by Republicans.

The once-mighty political organization collapsed in 1981 and opened the opportunity for the Republican Party to successfully exploit the public for its advantage. Since then, people's choice of a political party was essentially limited to the Republican Party between 1981 up until 1992; there wasn't much the electorate could do but to vote for its candidates.

Though the Democratic Party was able to regroup in the 1992 gubernatorial election and successfully reclaimed the executive office for a term, it suffered the same fate four years later. Again, people's choice of a political party since that time up to the present was limited to the Republican Party (sometimes masquerading as Covenant Party) candidates.

In a seemingly absurd or self-contradicting way, with Republican dominance of both branches of government for more than 28 years (riddled with public contempt, abuse of power, and corruption), the public kept electing pretty much the same people from the same party.

Because the people's choice of a political party was absent, the electorate invariably was left in a very precarious position. When political choices are not clear, and there is "a choice of no choice" as the only option available for the electorate to make a preferred choice of candidates, the end result is what we have today.

It is time for the *mamoble yan man ordinario na taotao* (the poor and ordinary people) to organize themselves again in support of Democratic government and put an end to the endless cycle of economic malaise Republicans have brought us, and former chief justice Dela Cruz has so lucidly identified.

It is time to reclaim our CNMI from those who are making a covenant with the casino industry for "30 pieces of silver" to feed their never-ending self-interest addiction.

This self-interest addiction will continue for as long as the Republican Party is left uncheck and no viable political option is available for the electorate to choose from. So, let us rally behind putting our collective efforts to help the Democratic Party be the party of, by, and for the people. Only then would we be able to have the chance to govern ourselves, and away from the bondage of public contempt, by electing creditable individual on the basis of personal conscientious beliefs.

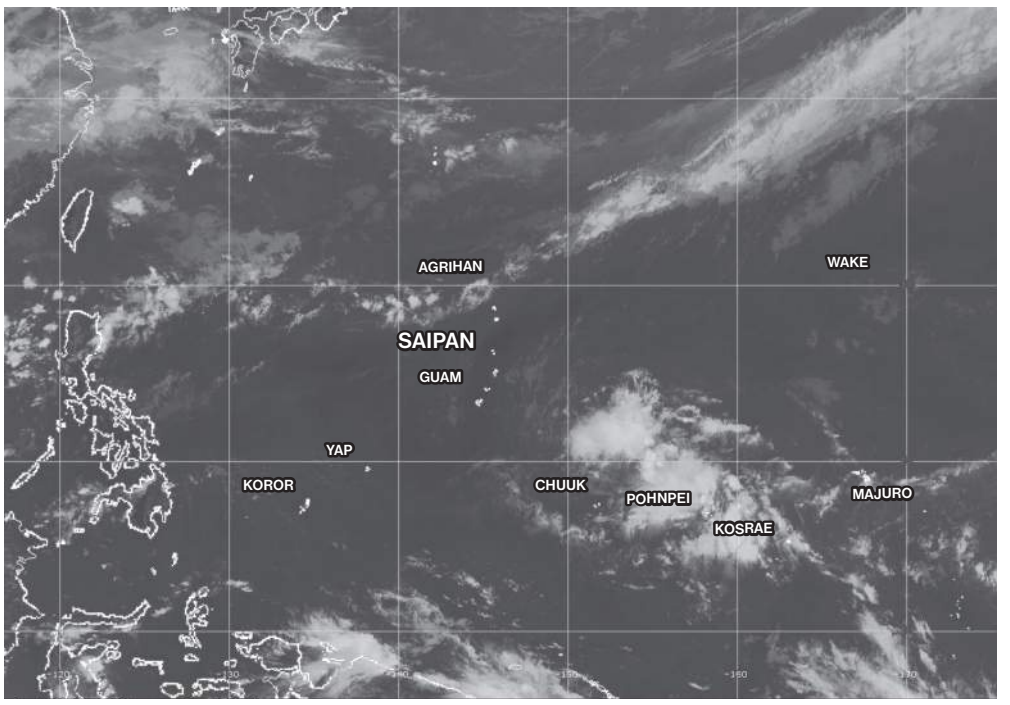
Daniel O. Quitugua
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers
88° 79°	88° 79°	80° 70°	80° 70°	80° 70°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:04 AM, MONDAY, MAY 13, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mostly sunny skies, a few light showers and gentle northeast winds prevail across the Marianas. Regional buoys show combined seas between 2 and 4 feet. A tropical disturbance near Chuuk remains disorganized and continues to weaken.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	63° / 57°
Beijing	Sunny	91° / 61°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 73°
London	Mostly Sunny	64° / 45°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	72° / 60°
Manila	Thunderstorms	93° / 81°
Melbourne	Sunny	63° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorms	83° / 75°
New York	Partly Cloudy	67° / 54°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	81° / 64°
Paris	Sunny	63° / 46°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	73° / 61°
Rome	Showers	61° / 46°
Salem	Sunny	81° / 59°
San Francisco	Showers	60° / 53°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	84° / 59°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 61°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	71° / 57°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
04:11 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.96
10:29 AM	LOW TIDE	0.82
3:38 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.53
10:08 PM	LOW TIDE	0.24

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:48 AM	6:37 PM
Wednesday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:10 AM	2:18 PM
Wednesday	-	2:56 AM	3:15 PM
Thursday	-	3:40 AM	4:12 PM
Friday	-	4:25 AM	5:08 PM
Saturday	-	5:10 AM	6:05 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ62	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	2, 4, 5
7C3403	5:10am	8:55am	1, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:10am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	09:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 3, 4
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Why tariff war threatens Beijing's global economic ambitions

BEIJING (AP)—China's intensified tariff war with the Trump administration is threatening Beijing's ambition to transform itself into the dominant player in global technology.

The United States is a vital customer and source of technology for Chinese makers of electronics, medical equipment and other high-tech exports—industries that the ruling Communist Party sees as the heart of its economic future.

Yet to the Trump administration, they're a threat to America's industrial leadership.

Beijing managed to keep Chinese economic growth steady in the most recent quarter despite a drop in exports to the United States. It did so by boosting government spending and bank lending. But China's technology exporters suffered huge sales drops of up to 40 percent, which ate into profits that pay for technology research.

The tariff war is compounding the pain felt by many Chinese companies. They are already enduring stiffened resistance in the United States and Europe to Chinese acquisitions of technology through joint ventures with foreign companies or, with financing by state-run banks, outright purchases.

China might now have to take the "tougher route" of developing more of its own technology, with less access to foreign partners and know-how, said Rajiv Biswas, chief Asia economist for IHS Markit.

"It may be a slower path," Biswas said.

The government and companies are pouring billions of dollars into research. Huawei, the telecom equipment giant and China's first global tech brand, spent $15 billion last year—more than Apple Inc.

All of this has helped make China an emerging heavyweight in telecoms, artificial intelligence and other fields. Yet the United States, Europe, Japan and other governments complain that Beijing has done so in part by stealing technology or pressuring foreign companies to hand over trade secrets.

Washington is pushing Beijing to roll back plans for a government-led creation of global competitors in robotics, electric cars, artificial intelligence and an array of emerging technologies. Beijing's trading partners argue that such plans violate its commitments to further open its vast consumer and business markets.

The struggle compounds the challenges for President Xi Jinping's government by threatening to delay or disrupt its economic plans. China's leaders are reluctant to yield; they need higher-tech industries to keep incomes rising. Many producers of textiles, shoes and toys have already migrated to Vietnam, Cambodia and other lower-cost economies.

China's ruling Communist Party responded to an economic downturn last year by stepping up spending and lending. That effort reversed a campaign to curb reliance on debt, which had soared so high that rating agencies had downgraded China's credit rating for government borrowing.

Abroad, Xi has been forced to overhaul his multibillion-dollar "Belt and Road" initiative to build railways and other infrastructure. In response to complaints that Beijing is saddling some countries with too much debt, the government has written off some loans and renegotiated contracts.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Pakistan secures preliminary deal for $6B IMF bailout

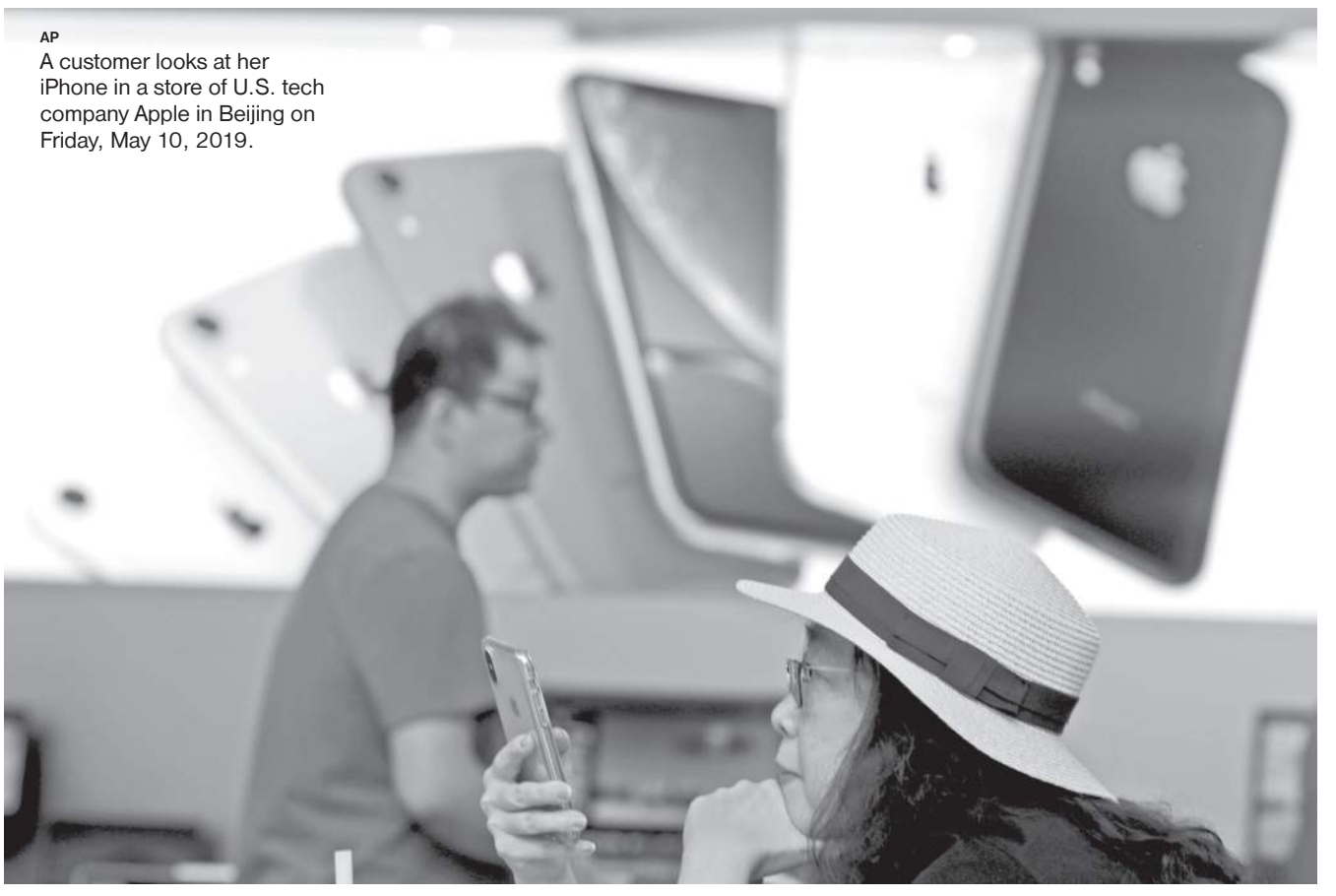
ISLAMABAD (AP)—The International Monetary Fund said Sunday it reached a preliminary agreement with Pakistan for a $6 billion bailout over the next three years to finance sweeping economic reforms. Pakistan and the international lender reached a "staff level agreement" subject to approval by the IMF management and the executive board, IMF envoy Ernesto Ramirez Rigo said in a statement. He said the IMF program aims to support Pakistan's strategy for "stronger and more balanced growth by reducing domestic and external imbalances, improving the business environment, strengthening institutions, increasing transparency, and protecting social spending." Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, an economic adviser to Prime Minister Imran Khan, confirmed that his country had reached a preliminary deal with the IMF. Pakistan had initially sought an $8 billion bailout to address a long-running fiscal crisis and has held months of talks with the IMF.

US-Canada border transfers raise fear of delayed crossings

DERBY LINE, Vt. (AP)—Hundreds of border agents from across the U.S. are being temporarily transferred south ahead of the busy summer tourism season, worrying those along the northern border who rely on cross-border commerce—including U.S. innkeepers, shop owners and restaurateurs who fear their Canadian customers could be caught in backups at border crossings. U.S. Customs and Border Protection says 731 northern border agents from land, sea and airports are in the process of being sent to the U.S.-Mexico border, where they will help their southern counterparts handle the influx of families and unaccompanied children from Central America. The move comes as businesses gear up for the summer season, when tens of thousands of Canadian tourists help buoy the economies of communities in border states and elsewhere deeper inside the United States. Since U.S.-Canada border security was ramped up shortly after the 9/11 attacks, local and state officials have worried heightened security could hurt trade and the free flow of people back and forth across the 5,525-mile (8,891-kilometer) border.

Tax administrator warns residents about a tax scam

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—The Rhode Island tax administrator is warning residents about a tax scam that has returned to the state. Neena Savage asked taxpayers, businesses and tax professionals to watch out for scammers claiming to be from the Rhode Island Division of Taxation. Residents recently contacted the state attorney general's office about the scam. Savage says in one version, the person who answers the phone is told to call another number, then they're asked for money, personal information or access to their home. In another version, the person receives a voicemail about an issue with their tax return and is asked to call immediately. The taxation division contacts taxpayers by mail first, not by phone, email or social media. Anyone who receives a call can contact the attorney general's consumer protection unit.



AP
A customer looks at her iPhone in a store of U.S. tech company Apple in Beijing on Friday, May 10, 2019.

Top WH adviser Kudlow admits US consumers pay tariffs

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House's top economic adviser acknowledged Sunday that U.S. consumers and businesses pay the tariffs that the Trump administration has imposed on billions of dollars of Chinese goods, even as President Trump himself insisted in a tweet, incorrectly, that China pays.

"Yes, I don't disagree with that," said Larry Kudlow, the head of the president's National Economic Council, when Chris Wallace, host of "Fox News Sunday," asked him, "It's U.S. businesses and U.S. consumers who pay, correct?"

Kudlow added, "Both sides will pay," but he stipulated that China "will suffer (economic) losses" from reduced exports to the U.S., not from paying the tariffs.

Kudlow's admission contradicts many of Trump's comments and tweets to the effect that Chinese companies pay the tariffs in what amounts, in the president's view, to a massive transfer of wealth to the United States from China. Yet almost no economist has agreed with Trump's view and fact-checkers routinely brand Trump's assertion false and point out that American importers of goods from China pay the tariffs.

Trump has also asserted that trade wars are "easy to win," but Kudlow accepted that they come with costs for the U.S. economy, though he downplayed the impact.

On Friday, the Trump administration raised duties on $200 billion of Chinese imports to 25% from 10%, after charging that China had backtracked on commitments it made earlier in the talks. The administration has already hit $50 billion of additional Chinese goods with 25% duties.

Later Sunday, Trump reiterated his view in a tweet: "We will be taking in Tens of Billions of Dollars in Tariffs from China. Buyers of product can make it themselves in the USA (ideal), or buy it from non-Tariffed countries."

Yet Carl Weinberg, chief international economist at High Frequency Economics, a forecasting firm, pointed out that many goods made in China aren't manufactured elsewhere. That's why many U.S. importers have little choice but to pay the tariff.

"So if you need that new iPad, it is you who will be paying the import duty, not some worker in China," Weinberg wrote in a research note.

Trump has also threatened to impose import taxes on the remaining $300 billion in Chinese imports, a step that Kudlow estimated would take several months to implement.

Imposing those tariffs would impact a wide range of consumer goods—clothes, shoes, toys, and electronics such as iPhones—that have been mostly exempted so far and could prompt steep cost increases that many Americans would likely notice.

Kudlow, however, said the economic impact of placing tariffs on all Chinese imports would be to cut economic growth 0.2 percentage points, "a very modest number."

Independent economists, though, think the impact would be larger. Gregory Daco, an economist at Oxford Economics, estimates it would reduce U.S. growth by a half percentage point and cost 300,000 jobs.

Kudlow also said the U.S. is awaiting retaliation from China over the increased tariffs, after talks in Washington ended on Friday without a deal.

Nation

Heavy rains in South leave some trapped, others afloat

AP
Davenport firefighters move building to building checking for people trapped after the floodwall failed at River Drive and Pershing Avenue sending Mississippi River floodwater into several blocks of downtown Davenport, Iowa Tuesday, April 30, 2019.

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Mississippi authorities rescued a man clinging to a tree and another man and his 4-year-old child from the roof of a submerged pickup truck as heavy rains caused flooding in the state and in neighboring Louisiana.

New Orleans residents awoke to flooded streets Sunday and the Mississippi Highway Patrol closed part of a highway due to heavy rains that also may have contributed to a freight train derailment.

A flash flood warning was extended for New Orleans and surrounding parishes until 1 p.m. Sunday as strong storms with heavy rain moved through the area. Photos published in Nola.com|The Times-Picayune showed partially submerged vehicles and people wading through ankle-deep water.

Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant tweeted on Sunday that he had signed a state of emergency declaration for all areas affected by the storms.

The Sun-Herald reported that first responders worked overnight from Saturday into Sunday, sometimes using boats, to rescue people in northern Harrison County in Mississippi.

County Fire Chief Pat Sullivan told the newspaper that one man was clinging to a tree after floodwaters swept his car off a road and another man and his 4-year-old child were rescued from the roof of their submerged pickup truck.

Sullivan, like authorities in other affected states, urged people to use caution and not to drive through floodwaters.

Flooding caused the Mississippi Highway Patrol to close part of Highway 49 in Stone County Sunday morning, and dozens of residents in Stone and Pearl River counties were forced from their homes by high water, news outlets reported. The flooding may also have contributed to the derailment of a freight train near Lumberton a little after 7 a.m. Saturday.

The derailment, in Pearl River County, happened as the train traveled from Birmingham, Alabama, to New Orleans, said Norfolk Southern spokeswoman Rachel McDonnell Bradshaw. Three of the cars were carrying steel and 25 were empty, Bradshaw said. She said no hazardous materials were involved and no injuries were reported. The cause of the derailment is under investigation, but WLOX-TV quoted authorities as saying the roads near the derailment were flooded over.

The New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board tweeted that more than 2 inches (51 millimeters) of rain fell between 5:15 a.m. and 6:15 a.m., outpacing the city's drainage system.

New Orleans suspended restrictions on parking shortly before 6 a.m. and encouraged residents to park on high ground.

The storms also caused power outages. As of about 9:40 a.m., several thousand Entergy customers were without power across Orleans, Jefferson, St. Charles and East Baton Rouge parishes.

Prosecutor: Dogs detected decomposition in missing girl case

HOUSTON (AP)—Trained dogs detected the scent of human decomposition in the vehicle of a man arrested in connection with the disappearance of a 4-year-old Texas girl, according to a prosecutor.

Derion Vence, 26, remained jailed Sunday on a $1 million bond after being arrested a day earlier on a charge of tampering with evidence, specifically a human corpse. His next court appearance is set for Monday.

Houston police said investigators have not found Maleah Davis and the investigation is continuing. Authorities have declined to say whether they believe Vence killed Maleah. But prosecutors said in court documents filed Saturday that Vence could face additional charges, including murder.

The investigation began after Vence told police that men in a truck on May 4 had abducted him, Maleah and his 2-year-old son a day earlier, but had freed him and the boy. Vence told investigators he was left in the Houston suburb of Sugar Land and walked to a hospital, where he reported the girl's abduction.

Sugar Land police, who initially interviewed him, said his story kept changing and didn't add up.

Vence, who had lived with Maleah and her mother, reported that his silver Nissan Altima was taken in the abduction, but surveillance video showed that vehicle was used to drop Vence off at the hospital. Police found the car Thursday.

AP
This undated photo provided by the Houston Police Dept. shows Derion Vence.

Dogs trained to find cadavers reacted to the trunk of the car, Pat Stayton, a prosecutor with the Harris County District Attorney's Office, said at Vence's probable cause court hearing Saturday night.

Surveillance video from a neighbor showed Vence carrying a large, blue laundry basket with a large trash bag from his apartment on May 3, Stayton said. Vence returned three minutes later without the basket and later he was seen leaving the apartment with cleaning supplies, including bleach.

In the silver Nissan, police found a laundry basket that looked like the one Vence took out of his apartment, Stayton said.

"Both of the dogs reacted to the trunk of the silver Nissan that the defendant had driven and that the blue laundry basket was recovered from, indicating that the dogs were responding to the scent of human decomposition in the vehicle," Stayton said.

Investigators also found blood at the apartment, both in the hallway leading to the bathroom and on surfaces inside the bathroom, Stayton said.

At Saturday night's hearing, Vence said he planned to hire a defense attorney.

Rodney Brown, an attorney appointed to represent Vence only for Saturday's hearing, had asked a magistrate judge to set bond at $5,000, saying Vence was a low flight risk and had lived in Houston most of his life.

Stayton argued that Vence was a flight risk and there was "evidence of deception on the part of the defendant with regard to information he gave to police."

Police have described Vence as Maleah's stepfather, but Maleah's mother, Brittany Bowens, said through a spokesman that Vence is her former fiance. Quanell X, a local civil rights activist who

ACROSS THE NATION

Officials: Officer, robbery suspect dead in coastal Georgia

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—A robbery suspect fatally shot a police officer in the Georgia port city of Savannah and wounded the officer's colleague before fleeing and being fatally shot by another officer during an ensuing search, authorities said Sunday. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation said 50-year-old Savannah Police Sgt. Kelvin Ansari and 49-year-old robbery suspect Edward Fuller III were pronounced dead at a hospital where both were taken Saturday evening after being shot. The bureau, Georgia's top law enforcement agency, said Ansari and Officer Douglas Thomas had answered a call about a person who had been robbed Saturday evening outside a Savannah barber shop. The statement said the suspect was in a vehicle and got out and fired on the officers, striking both. Fuller then ran and police converged on a nearby area, seeking the suspect near a residence, according to authorities. When Fuller was spotted emerging from a backyard shed, he was pointing a handgun at officers and was shot by one of the officers, according to the bureau statement. The handgun was recovered and determined to have been stolen, the statement added. Thomas, 40, was treated and released at the same hospital where the two others were taken.

Man's death in west Alaska village jail is 3rd in 2 weeks

AKIACHAK, Alaska (AP)—An Alaska man has died while in police custody, the third person to die in a western Alaska community jail in the past two weeks, authorities said. Robert Nick, 54, died in a jail in the village of Akiachak, The Anchorage Daily News reported Sunday. Nick was taken into protective custody "due to the level of his intoxication" Friday by a tribal officer in the village of about 600 people on the Kuskokwim River, northeast of Bethel, police said. Alaska State Troopers were notified of Nick's death Friday evening around 9 p.m. and boated to Akiachak to investigate. State police did not say what Nick is believed to have died from or how long he had been dead when he was found by tribal jail guards. His remains were sent to the state medical examiner's office in Anchorage, authorities said. Becca White, 24, and Isaiah Parka, 22, died in a blaze April 28 at the village jail in Napakiak, southwest of Bethel. The fire is still under investigation.

Florida: Police investigating shooting near Trump resort

SUNNY ISLES BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Police are investigating a shooting near one of President Donald Trump's resorts in Florida that apparently involved a dispute outside a rental car facility. Media outlets report the shooting happened Sunday afternoon near the Trump International Beach Resort Miami in Sunny Isles Beach. The president was not there and it did not appear to have a political connection. There were reports of a second and possibly related shooting on a nearby causeway. Media outlets reported that one person died and others were wounded outside a rental car facility near the Trump property. Witnesses told the Miami Herald it was a result of an argument. The Herald also reported the situation apparently has some connection to the Rolling Loud hip-hop festival this weekend at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens.

Asia

Millions vote in Philippine elections crucial to Duterte

AP
A man helps his wife fill out her ballot as they vote at a polling center in the Manuel L. Quezon elementary school, Manila, Philippines, Monday, May 13, 2019.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Filipinos began casting their vote Monday in midterm elections highlighted by a showdown between President Rodrigo Duterte's allies who aim to dominate the Senate and opposition candidates fighting for checks and balances under a leader they regard as a looming dictator.

Nearly 62 million Filipinos have registered to choose among 43,500 candidates vying for about 18,000 congressional and local posts, including 81 governors, 1,634 mayors and more than 13,000 city and town councilors in 81 provinces, in one of Asia's most rambunctious democracies.

Many see the elections as a crucial referendum on Duterte's rise to power with a brutal crackdown on illegal drugs that has left thousands dead, his unorthodox leadership style, combative and sexist joke-laden outbursts and contentious embrace of China.

"President Duterte's name is not on the ballot but this is very much a referendum on his three years of very disruptive yet very popular presidency," Manila-based analyst Richard Heydarian said.

The outcome of the polls would show whether the Filipino populace affirms or rejects Duterte's authoritarian-style leadership in an Asian bastion of democracy, Heydarian said.

The most crucial race is for 12 seats in the 24-member Senate, which Duterte wants to fill with allies to bolster his legislative agenda. That includes the return of the death penalty, lowering the age for criminal liability of child offenders, and revising the country's 1987 constitution primarily to allow a shift to a federal form of government, a proposal some critics fear may be a cover to remove term limits.

Military and police forces were on full alert to respond to any violence, especially in security hotspots that include the entire southern region of Mindanao, and help prevent cheating amid intense local political rivalries.

Two suspected grenade blasts were reported in southern Maguindanao province, including one shortly before voting started at 6 a.m.. There were no reported injuries from the explosions.

Commission on Elections spokesman James Jimenez said the elections season has been peaceful so far compared to past years. Police say 20 people have died in poll-related violence, out of 76 reported casualties.

In Manila's financial district of Makati, former Vice President Jejomar Binay protested after his ballot was rejected by an automated counting machine, one of several similar complaints. At least two mayoral candidates have been put in police custody elsewhere, including one for alleged elections fraud.

Opposition aspirants consider the Senate the last bastion of checks and balances given the solid dominance of Duterte's loyalists in the lower House of Representatives. Last year, opposition senators moved to block proposed bills they feared would undermine civil liberties.

Duterte's politics and key programs, including his drive against illegal drugs that has left more than 5,200 mostly urban poor suspects dead, have been scrutinized on the campaign trail and defended by close allies running for the Senate, led by his former national police chief Ronald dela Rosa, who first enforced the crackdown when the president took office in mid-2016.

Aside from the drug killings, Duterte's gutter language and what nationalists say is a policy of appeasement toward China that may undermine Philippine territorial claims in the South China Sea, have also been the cause of protests and criticism.

ASIAN BRIEFS

UN leader arrives in New Zealand on climate change trip

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Sunday that the political will to fight climate change seems to be fading at the same time as things are getting worse for those feeling the effects. Guterres made the comments after arriving in New Zealand, where he spoke to media alongside Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern in Auckland. Guterres plans to spend three days in New Zealand as part of a trip to the South Pacific to highlight the problems of climate change. In Christchurch, he will also meet with Muslim leaders following the March 15 slaughter of 51 worshippers by a gunman who attacked two mosques during Friday prayers. Guterres said he usually visits a Muslim country during the holy month of Ramadan but this year decided to visit Muslims in New Zealand as a tribute to their courage and resilience after the attack. He said he admired the solidarity New Zealand showed after the attack, and praised Ardern for helping implement new gun control laws and for urging other world leaders and tech companies to find a way to prevent acts of extremism from being shown online, after the gunman livestreamed his attack on Facebook.

Myanmar passenger jet lands safely after landing gear fails

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A Myanmar National Airlines plane made an emergency landing at Mandalay International Airport on Sunday, using only its rear wheels after the front landing gear failed to deploy. All 82 passengers and seven crew members aboard Flight UB103 from Yangon were declared safe after the Brazilian-made Embraer 190-LR touched down on its rear sets of wheels before the plane's nose tilted down to scrape the runway, sending off a shower of sparks as it slowed to a stop. Kyaw San, a spokesman for the airport, said the pilot informed the control tower before landing that he was unable to pull down the nose wheels. A statement on the airline's Facebook page explained that the plane's EICAS—Engine Indicating and Crew Alerting System—indicated a failure of the front landing gear to deploy. The pilot tried a backup emergency procedure to pull down the wheels but that was unsuccessful. The aircraft did two fly-bys past the tower for air controllers to check visually whether the wheels had deployed. The captain followed emergency procedures to dump fuel to reduce the landing weight, and made a safe landing at 9:09 a.m., said the statement.

300 Himalayan yaks die of starvation in India's northeast

GAUHATI, India (AP)—At least 300 rare Himalayan yaks have died of starvation in the high mountains in the northeastern Indian state of Sikkim, close to the border with China, authorities said Saturday. A team of local administrators and veterinarians visiting the heights of Muguthang and Yumthang in northern Sikkim discovered the animals' corpses on Friday, said government official Raj Yadav. He said the semi-domesticated animals became trapped in December after their passage to the nearest village got blocked due to heavy snowfall. Yadav said authorities tried several times to drop feed for the Yaks by helicopter but failed due to inclement weather. "The passage was cleared five days ago, after which our team trekked to the area to discover the tragedy," he said. The areas of Muguthang and Yumthang are favorite grazing grounds for yaks in the region. Yadav said the government would compensate the yak owners with 30,000 Indian rupees ($430) per yak up to a maximum of three yaks per family.

Pakistan hotel cleared after deadly insurgent attack kills 5

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—An insurgent attack at a luxury hotel on Pakistan's southwestern coast killed five people, including a special forces soldier, a hotel security guard and three staff members, the country's military said Sunday after concluding a painstaking operation to clear the hotel and defuse explosive devices left behind by the attackers.

The statement clarified that three gunmen—not four as initially reported—had been killed during the eight-hour gunfight with security forces on Saturday inside the Pearl Continental hotel in the city of Gwadar.

The attackers failed to take any guests hostage, but the hotel staff and guard were killed as the insurgents stormed the building. The military said six people, including two soldiers, were also wounded.

Prime Minister Imran Khan called the attack an act of terrorism and praised the "initial response by security guards and security forces" for preventing greater loss of life.

A Baluch separatist group, the Baluch Liberation Army, claimed responsibility Saturday for the attack, releasing photos of the four insurgents who it said took part. Initially, senior security officials had said four assailants had been killed. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to speak to the media.

The Baluch Liberation Army carried out a dozen attacks last year against Chinese-linked projects. In November, the group attacked a Chinese consulate in the major southern city of Karachi, triggering a shootout that killed two police officers, two civilians and all three insurgents.

Beijing is financing tens of billions of dollars' worth of megaprojects in Pakistan and is currently helping build a modern port in Gwadar, 600 kilometers (373 miles) west of Karachi. The Pearl Continental hotel is located near the port.

Gwadar lies in the southwestern province of Baluchistan, the scene of a low-level insurgency by separatists who demand a greater share of the province's natural gas and mineral resources. Pakistan says it has quelled the insurgency, but violence has continued. Residents of Baluchistan and other areas accuse the central government of favoring the country's Punjab province, home to some 60 percent of the country's 200 million people and most of the political elite.

The attack on the Pearl Continental came weeks after Islamabad claimed that a group of militants crossed the border from neighboring Iran and killed 14 security officials when they were on their way to Gwadar in buses.

Pakistan at the time blamed a Baluch separatist group, Raji Aajoi Sangar, for the killings.

World

Maduro's foes fill embassies in Venezuela as crisis deepens

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—From the lush tropical garden of the Chilean ambassador's residence, Venezuelan opposition leader Freddy Guevara takes a much-anticipated call from a foreign diplomat and asks him to protect a fellow lawmaker fleeing President Nicolás Maduro's latest crackdown.

"Gracias, Gracias ambassador. In the name of all of us," said Guevara speaking into his cellphone as he sits down for a rare interview inside the diplomatic compound that has been his uneasy and isolating home the past 18 months.

"You probably think this was all staged for you, right?" he chuckles while tapping out a text message sharing the good news to someone in his party. "But the last few days have all been like this."

As Venezuela's crisis deepens, more and more government opponents are on the run, facing arrest for their role in a failed military uprising last week when opposition leader Juan Guaidó briefly took control of a highway with a small cadre of troops seeking to topple Maduro.

But instead of going into exile, or to jail as another silenced martyr of the movement to oust Maduro, many dissidents are pounding on the doors of foreign embassies in a throwback to the dark days of the 1970s, when far bloodier military dictatorships in South America hunted down their opponents.

In the past 10 days, as Maduro has mopped up from the uprising, three lawmakers have taken refuge in the ambassadorial residences of Italy and Argentina, while opposition leader Leopoldo López, who defied house arrest to partake in the putsch, is now living with his family in the Spanish ambassador's residence. Others are hiding out in undisclosed missions while 18 national guardsmen who answered Guaidó's call to rebel are holed up in Panama's embassy.

None have requested asylum, even though countries in Latin America have a tradition of granting such status to political outcasts showing up at their diplomatic missions, allowing them to enter instead as "guests" in a sort of limbo waiting for Maduro to fall.

For Guevara, that's allowed him to remain politically active, holding frequent strategy sessions with Guaidó and other members of their Popular Will party.

"I'm like the ghost in a haunted house: I can't leave but if you want to come over you can talk to me," he says.

Guevara's decision to seek refuge inside the ambassador's residence was part necessity, part political strategy.

The 33-year-old cut his political teeth during student protests against Hugo Chavez a decade ago and quickly rose through the opposition's ranks after several of its stalwarts were jailed or exiled. As vice president of the opposition-controlled congress, he was one of the leaders of anti-Maduro protests in 2017 that led to more than 130 deaths. When the government finally quelled the unrest, Guevara was high on the list of organizers they went after.

AP

In this Saturday, May 11, 2019 photo, Venezuelan opposition leader Freddy Guevara, exiled at the Chilean ambassador's residence speaks by phone prior a interview with the Associated Press, in Caracas, Venezuela.

UAE says 4 ships targeted by 'sabotage' off its east coast

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—The United Arab Emirates said Sunday that four commercial ships off its eastern coast "were subjected to sabotage operations," just hours after Iranian and Lebanese media outlets aired false reports of explosions at a nearby Emirati port.

Emirati officials declined to elaborate on the nature of the sabotage or say who might have been responsible. However, the reported incident comes as the U.S. has warned ships that "Iran or its proxies" could be targeting maritime traffic in the region, and as America is deploying an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf to counter alleged threats from Tehran.

Tensions have risen in the year since President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, restoring American sanctions that have pushed Iran's economy into crisis. Last week, Iran warned it would begin enriching uranium at higher levels in 60 days if world powers failed to negotiate new terms for the deal.

The statement from the UAE's Foreign Ministry put the ships near the country's territorial waters in the Gulf of Oman, east of the port of Fujairah. It said it was investigating the incident "in cooperation with local and international bodies." It said there were "no injuries or fatalities on board the vessels" and "no spillage of harmful chemicals or fuel."

The U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, which oversees the region, did not immediately offer comment on the incident. Emirati officials declined to elaborate while their investigation is ongoing.

Earlier Sunday, Lebanon's pro-Iran satellite channel Al-Mayadeen, quoting "Gulf sources," falsely reported that a series of explosions had struck Fujairah's port. State and semi-official media in Iran picked up the report from Al-Mayadeen, which later published the names of vessels it claimed were involved in the incident.

The Associated Press, after speaking to Emirati officials and local witnesses, found the report about explosions at the port to be unsubstantiated.

Fujairah's port is located about 140 kilometers (85 miles) from the Strait of Hormuz, through which a third of all oil at sea is traded. The facility handles oil for bunkering and shipping, as well as general and bulk cargo. It is seen as strategically located, serving shipping routes in the Persian Gulf, the Indian subcontinent and Africa.

The reported sabotage incident comes after the U.S. Maritime Administration warned Thursday that Iran could target commercial sea traffic.

"Since early May, there is an increased possibility that Iran and/or its regional proxies could take action against U.S. and partner interests, including oil production infrastructure, after recently threatening to close the Strait of Hormuz," the warning read. "Iran or its proxies could respond by targeting commercial vessels, including oil tankers, or U.S. military vessels in the Red Sea, Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, or the Persian Gulf."

It's unclear if that is the same perceived threat that prompted the White House to order the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group and B-52 bombers to the region on May 4.

Polish nationalists protest US over Holocaust claims

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Thousands of Polish nationalists marched to the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw Saturday, protesting that the U.S. is putting pressure on Poland to compensate Jews whose families lost property during the Holocaust.

The protest took place amid a dramatic rise in anti-Semitic hate speech in public life in Poland and it appeared to be one of the largest anti-Jewish street demonstrations in recent times. It also comes as far-right groups are gaining in popularity, pressuring the conservative government to move further to the right.

Protesters, including far-right groups and their supporters, say the United States has no right to interfere in Polish affairs and that the U.S. government is putting "Jewish interests" over the interests of Poland.

Poland was a major victim of Nazi Germany during World War II and those protesting say it is not fair to ask Poland to compensate Jewish victims when Poland has never received adequate compensation from Germany.

"Why should we have to pay money today when nobody gives us anything?" said 22-year-old Kamil Wencwel. "Americans only think about Jewish and not Polish interests."

The protesters shouted "No to claims!" and "This is Poland, not Polin," using the Hebrew word for Poland.

Rafal Pankowski, a sociologist who heads the anti-extremist group Never Again, called the march "probably the biggest openly anti-Jewish street demonstration in Europe in recent years."

One couple wore matching T-shirts reading "Death to the enemies of the fatherland," while another man wore a shirt saying: "I will not apologize for Jedwabne"—a massacre of Jews by their Polish neighbors in 1941 under the German occupation.

Among those far-right politicians who led the march were Janusz Korwin-Mikke and Grzegorz Braun, who have joined forces in a far-right coalition standing in the elections to the European Parliament later this month. Stopping Jewish restitution claims has been one of their key priorities, along with fighting what they call pro-LGBT "propaganda." The movement is polling well with young Polish men.

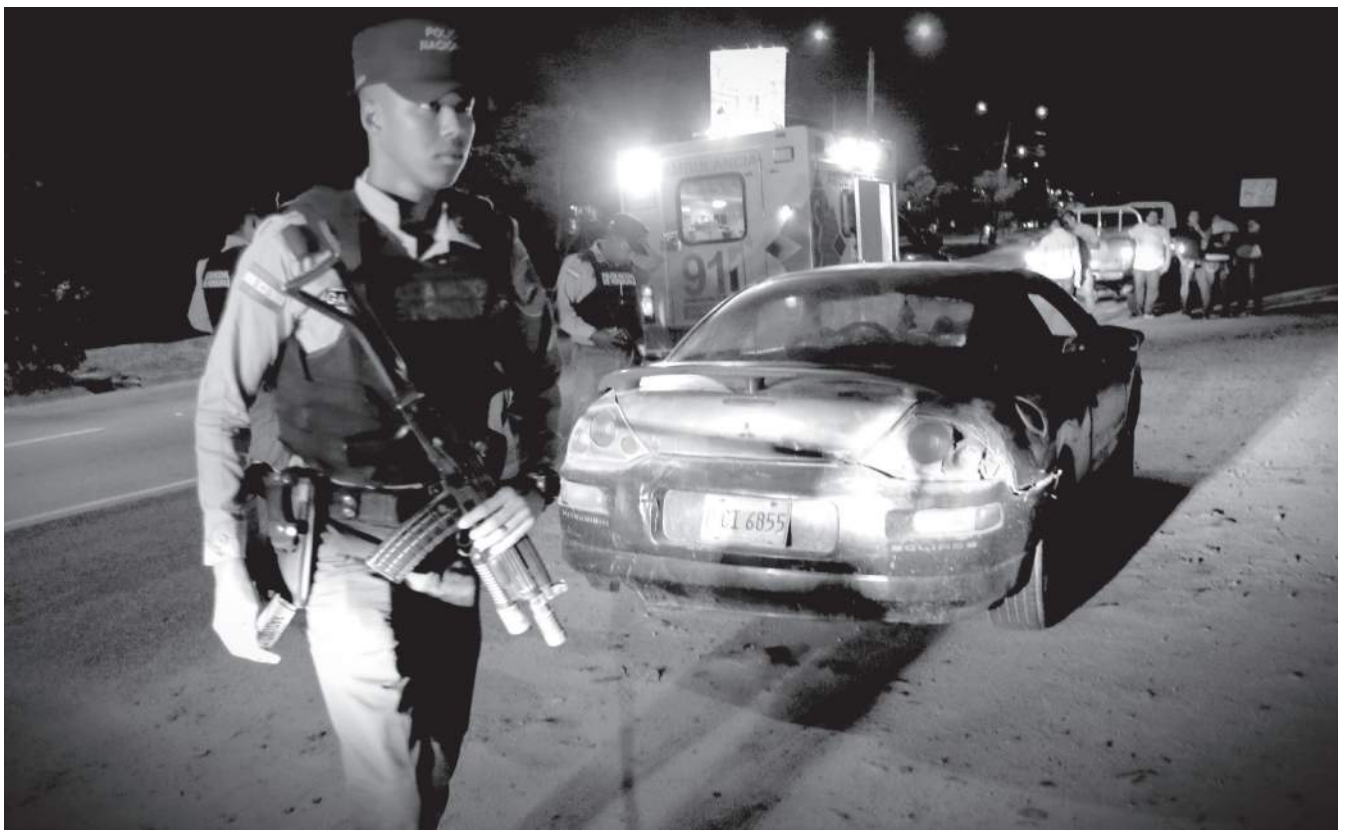
Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki echoed the feelings of the protesters at a campaign rally Saturday, saying that it is Poles who deserve compensation.

Poland was the heartland of European Jewish life before the Holocaust, with most of the 3.3 million Polish Jews murdered by occupying Nazi German forces. Christian Poles were also targeted by the Germans, killed in massacres and in concentration camps.

Many Poles to this day have a feeling that their suffering has not been adequately acknowledged by the world, while that of Jewish suffering in the Holocaust has, creating what has often been called a "competition of victimhood."

Many of the properties of both Jews and non-Jews were destroyed during the war or were looted and later nationalized by the communist regime that followed.

Focus



AP

Police and paramedics gather around a vehicle where the body of an unidentified man lies inside, after he died on his way to the hospital after suffering stab wounds in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, Wednesday, May 1, 2019. San Pedro Sula was the world's most murderous city four years straight from 2011 to 2014, and the country's nationwide murder rate in 2018 was 41 per 100,000, one of the highest on the planet.

Violence, poverty reign in Honduran city where caravans form

By SONIA PÉREZ D.
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN PEDRO SULA, Honduras (AP)—In the dusty, dimly lit neighborhoods of San Pedro Sula, everyone knows the unwritten rules: There are places you don't go without permission. If driving, roll down the windows so gang members and their lookouts can see who is inside. It's safest to stay home after nightfall, leaving the streets to the enforcers and drug dealers who are armed and don't hesitate to kill.

Honduras' second biggest city is where caravan after caravan of migrants have formed in recent months to head north to Mexico and on toward the United States, fleeing violence, poverty, corruption and chaos. All of those are palpable on the city's sweltering streets, a reminder of why thousands continue to flee despite the dangers and uncertain prospects for being able to stay even if they make it to the U.S.

The northern district of San Pedro Sula where Associated Press journalists accompanied police on a recent night is home to nearly 230,000 people with just 50 officers to patrol its 189 neighborhoods, including the most dangerous: Planeta, Lomas del Carmen and La Rivera Hernandez. Deputy police inspector Wilmer López says two drug labs were busted in the area in the last year. He has arrested gang members as young as 9.

Police officers carry handguns and are accompanied by soldiers with assault rifles. "They make us feel safer," said López, who led the patrol.

He said nine separate gangs are known to operate in this part of town, including the internationally infamous 18th Street and Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13. Both originated in Los Angeles decades ago and spread through deportations to Central America, evolving into hyper-violent transnational organizations that drive the high rates of killing and other crimes in Central America's Northern Triangle countries — Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. Their calling cards are in the graffiti scrawled on homes, and in the bodies they leave behind.

"Some you can tell by their way of killing," López said. "Like the Batos Locos gang, which bags (its victims), or 18th Street, which dismembers them."

On this night the patrol largely goes without incident. Police frisk customers at a pool hall and check IDs over their inebriated protests. But around 6 a.m. the first body of the day, a youth with his face disfigured, is found dumped in the Sinai neighborhood just behind the Rivera Hernandez police station.

Residents of San Pedro Sula, the world's most murderous city four years straight from 2011 to 2014, long ago grew numb to the bodies. Last week alone at least 16 people were killed in the city. According to local media, so far this year there have been at least 25 multiple homicides involving three or more victims.

At a lunch counter, news comes on TV about the latest slaying, of a man at a tire repair shop. Customers gaze curiously at the body on the screen but keep eating.

"People are not shocked when someone gets killed," said Salvador Nasralla, a former opposition presidential candidate who laments that violence has become normalized in Honduras.

The National Civil Police say homicides have dropped significantly nationwide. From a high of 86 killings per 100,000 inhabitants in 2011, the homicide rate last year was 41 per 100,000 residents, though that is still one of the highest on the planet.

In San Pedro Sula some say violence has abated somewhat since about 800 gang members who ran extortion rackets from behind bars were moved from a prison in the city center to a maximum-security lockup in the western mountains in 2017.

Killings are said to be down even more so far this year, but bloodshed is not the only factor that makes life hard in the city.

"Violence is not determined solely by homicides but by the death threats, the extortions, the forced recruitments into gangs, attacks against property in the gang-controlled areas that the state has not been able to recover," said Roberto Herrera Cáceres, the national human rights commissioner.

"A situation of insecurity moves people," Herrera said. "It forces internal displacement that later turns into forced migrations."

Erick Lara is a prime example. Along with six friends he joined the most recent caravan that left in April as a group of fewer than 300, much smaller than those seen before Mexican police raided a previous caravan and left its participants detained, deported or scattered.

Lara, a 27-year-old bricklayer, left San Pedro Sula even though he had a good job helping build a church because gangsters were trying to force him and his friends to join up.

"They are collecting young people to work for them" as lookouts or dealers, Lara said. "It's not voluntary, and if you say, 'No,' they kill you."

People from all over Honduran flock to San Pedro Sula whenever it is time for a new migrant caravan.

There is also a constant stream of the dead, as nearly all municipalities of the Cortes department send their bodies to the city's morgue. Mourning relatives mill about outside.

"Here you always have people who died violent deaths," said a funeral home worker. He declined to give his name for fear of reprisals.

Sitting on a wooden plank, a gray-haired, black-clad man who also asked not to be identified waited for the body of his slain son. He said the son was out drinking with friends when gunmen showed up and shot him, inflicting wounds that killed him days later in a hospital. The man said he had worried about his son, but had no idea who killed him or why. More than anything he seemed resigned to the new reality.

A car drove by and two policemen ran after it. Two gunshots rang out a couple of blocks away, perhaps fired into the air, and everyone turned to look. The officers came back laughing. Nobody asked what happened — nobody said anything.

Many Hondurans blame the country's problems on President Juan Orlando Hernández, who was re-elected in 2018 despite a constitutional ban on second terms and in a vote that was marred by irregularities. He promised a "better life" as a campaign slogan but has been unable to deliver that for the country's most vulnerable.

Hernández's office did not respond to a request for comment. The president said recently that "I swore not to rest until Hondurans' peace and tranquility are recovered, and I will continue to do that." Last week, he said his administration's economic policies are working, and "We are doing well."

Washington has threatened the Northern Triangle countries with security and humanitarian aid cuts if they are unable to staunch the flow of migrants. But that could have the opposite effect if jobs and anti-poverty programs suffer.

Rolando Lázaro Bautista lives on an unpaved street dotted with dirt-floor, wood-and-corrugated metal homes. It's an area without sewers or running water, and hundreds have left.

It's also a stone's throw from luxury condominium towers, and municipal authorities have long wanted to clear away the shacks. During one attempt, the homes of several of Bautista's neighbors were torched. Human rights workers have obtained a court order protecting them for now.

Bautista says he went north twice. First in a caravan in January, only to be deported from Mexico. Next he hired a "coyote," or smuggler, but was caught three days' walk into Texas on his way to Houston and deported.

The 47-year-old doesn't intend to try again after the experience of being sunburnt, exhausted and forced to hide for days in a warehouse and a sweltering safe house: "You suffer from the thirst and hunger."

Back home he found construction work for this week. But after that there is nothing certain. He and his wife rely on money sent by their daughter who migrated to Spain and who paid the coyote's $7,500 fee. Meanwhile, they take care of the two daughters she left in San Pedro Sula.

Honduran sociologist Jenny Argüello says the basic foods needed by the average family of five costs the equivalent of about $650 a month, more than the monthly minimum wage of around $400.

In the 1990s most people who migrated did so in search of a better life, Argüello said. "Today it is the only alternative Hondurans have to survive."

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW

Nissan updates Maxima sedan for 2019 with styling changes, more technology

The 2019 Nissan Maxima's aggressive, updated exterior appearance was created by Nissan Design America in La Jolla, Calif. and features a more voluminous front grille with a deeper V-motion flow that carries into the hood and down the body to the redesigned rear tail lamps and rear fascia. TNS

By EMMA JAYNE WILLIAMS
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

The Maxima premium sedan is Nissan's longest running nameplate, a vehicle the automaker calls a "four-door sports car," and it's been a consumer favorite for more than four decades.

For 2019, the Maxima has a "commanding new attitude," Nissan says, with a long list of enhancements and additions, including refreshed exterior and interior styling, advanced safety technology, and new options packages.

Five distinct, well-equipped models are available: The S ($33,950); SV ($35,960); SL ($38,440); SR ($39,530), which I tested); and Platinum ($41,440).

The new attitude includes aggressive exterior styling updates: standard LED headlights, new front fascia and grille, revised rear fascia with LED taillights and integrated quad-tip exhaust finishers, and new 18- and 19-inch wheel designs.

A new interior treatment includes semi-aniline diamond-quilted Rakuda (Japanese, camel) tan leather-appointed seating.

Newly available Nissan Safety Shield 360 active safety technology (standard on my SR) includes automatic emergency braking with pedestrian detection, blind-spot warning, rear cross-traffic alert, lane-departure warning, high-beam assist, and rear automatic braking. New front knee air bags and rear seat side air bags are also standard.

New convenience features include standard rear door alert, traffic-sign recognition, and USB type-C ports. Two new packages are available: The Premium Package ($1,820), for the SR; and Reserve Package ($1,140), with exclusive content for the Platinum.

A 300-horsepower 3.5-liter VQ-series V-6 engine, mated to an advanced Xtronic continuously variable automatic transmission, is standard for all trims. The Xtronic transmission, with its lack of fixed gear ratios, is always in the right gear at the right time. It does, however, have a manual-shift mode with paddle shifters on the steering wheel.

The exclusive Integrated Dynamics-control Module is an extra element of electronic chassis management, featuring intelligent trace control (brakes wheels individually to steer smoothly through curves), intelligent engine brake (uses the Xtronic CVT to apply engine braking for smoother deceleration), and active ride control (targets brake application after a road irregularity to improve ride quality).

Drive Mode Selector with sport and normal modes is also standard. With Active Sound Enhancement (standard on my Bose audio equipped SR), sport mode amplifies the engine note in the cabin, along with bringing more-aggressive shifting and increased steering feel.

My Maxima SR was Gun Metallic (medium gray) with 19-inch gloss-black split-spoke aluminum-alloy wheels sporting all-season tires. The aggressive appearance featured a more-voluminous gloss-black front grille, with deep V-motion creases flowing up onto the hood and down the body sides to the taillights.

Standard jewel-like LED headlights and signature "boomerang" daytime running lights sat above the new, deep fascia, and helped emphasize the captivating performance stance.

The low, sculpted body with deeply scalloped doors and a floating roof appearance achieved by blacking out the roof pillars (including the side mirrors and the extended C-pillar) had a jet fighter look. A dual-panel panoramic moon roof (part of the Premium package) gave passengers an uninhibited view of the sky.

A new gloss-black sport rear spoiler highlighted the revised rear fascia. All trims have new wheel designs, with special new 19-inch Dark Hyper Silver Platinum Reserve wheels, part of the exclusive package for the Platinum trim.

The 2019 Nissan Maxima.

Seven exterior colors are available, including a new premium color ($395), Sunset Drift ChromaFlair, with color-shifting pigment, changing depending on the light source and viewing angle. Standard exterior colors are Super Black, Brilliant Silver Metallic (platinum), and Deep Blue Pearl (royal). Pearl White Tricoat and Carnelian Red Tintcoat (deep) also are premium colors, $395 each.

The cockpit was driver-oriented, with the center stack angled seven degrees toward the driver and a higher floating console with key controls within easy reach. The start switch on the console pulses when the driver enters, and the Display Commander control on the console allows fingertip control of the center display.

Luxurious padding with contrast stitching on the sides of the console, along with a new seat insert pattern and charcoal headliner and pillars, gave my Maxima SR a premium bespoke style.

A three-layer foam design gave Nissan's unique Zero Gravity front seat, with sport bolstering, an indulgent softness. My seats were Charcoal Premium Ascot leather with a dynamic diamond quilt pattern on the Alcantara seat inserts, and contrast stitching on the bolsters and headrests.

The front seats were climate-controlled, and the Ascot leather-wrapped "D-shaped" steering wheel (with Alcantara inserts) was heated. The driver's seat had a manual thigh extension. The rear seat featured a standard 60/40 split fold-down seatback.

Maxima's "Gliding Wing" horizontal-movement layout featured updated Satin Dark Chrome faceted trim across the dash and into the door panels, where gloss black surrounded chrome door handles. Contrast stitching accented the upper dash, instrument panel hood, and steering wheel.

Active Noise Cancellation worked like noise-canceling headphones to help reduce unpleasant low-frequency sounds in the cabin.

NissanConnect with Navigation featured Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, and was enhanced for 2019 with Nissan Door to Door Navigation with Premium Traffic information. The system had an eight-inch color display with multi-touch control, two front illuminated USB connection ports (one Type-A, one Type-C), voice recognition for nav and audio, SiriusXM Traffic and Travel Link, Bluetooth hands-free phone and streaming audio, and hands-free text messaging.

Additional NissanConnect Services security features included automatic collision notification, emergency call (SOS), vehicle locator and more. Convenience services ranged from Connected Search, nav directions downloaded to the nav system, and journey planning, with waypoints as well as destination.

My Maxima SR had a Bose sound system with 11 speakers, Center Point Surround Stage technology, and a driver's seat optimization mode for a driver-centered experience. The system included MP3/WMA CD capability, Radio Data System, and speed-sensitive volume control, with illuminated steering-wheel-mounted controls. SiriusXM capability is standard, requiring a subscription.

Safety was addressed with technology such as standard Intelligent Driver Alertness, which uses steering inputs to detect changes in driving behavior, then alerts the driver to take a break with a chime and a coffee cup icon on the driver information display.

The Premium Package included Nissan's innovative Intelligent Around View Monitor with a 360-degree camera view of the vehicle including split-screen close-ups of the front, rear, and curbside views, and an on-screen heads-up when a moving object is detected near the vehicle. The package also included rear automatic braking, auto-dimming driver-side outside mirror, outside mirrors with reverse tilt-down, and driver-side memory seat.

Intelligent Cruise Control maintained speed and distance, even in heavy traffic. Intelligent Forward Collision Warning monitored speed and distance two cars ahead, then issued a warning to slow down when sudden deceleration was detected.

Front and rear crumple zones, hood-buckling creases, energy-absorbing steering column, and high-strength steel side-door guard beams are standard to protect occupants from the outside. A total of 10 air bags cushion and protect occupants.

My tester had Splash Guards ($205) and Sport floor mats, trunk mat, trunk net, first aid kit, and bag hooks ($360).

The Maxima SR is a stunning vehicle, especially in Gun Metallic with gloss-black wheels and sport spoiler. My comfortable, fun-to-drive SR delivered for $42,810, with $895 destination charges.

Emma Jayne Williams' auto reviews appear in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. She can be reached at emmajayne1948@gmail.com.

Life & Style

'John Wick 3' director talks about pairing Keanu Reeves with Marjanovic for fight scene

By GARY THOMPSON
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

AP
This image released by Lionsgate shows Keanu Reeves in a scene from "John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum."

At the outset of "John Wick: Chapter 3—Parabellum," Keanu Reeves' title character goes up against a towering assassin who might look familiar to Philadelphia 76ers fans.

It's backup center Boban Marjanovic, the 7-foot, 3-inch-tall Serb who arrived in Philadelphia from the Los Angeles Clippers as part of the trade that brought Tobias Harris and Mike Scott.

Turns out Marjanovic has a fairly substantial and memorable cameo in the movie, which stars Reeves as a hit man with a $14 million bounty on his head who finds himself battling the world's deadliest killers.

And the world's tallest.

When he was blocking out ideas for "John Wick 3," director Chad Stahelski—once a professional stuntman—conceived of a scene that would pit Reeves against a much taller opponent in a very cramped space.

"As an action choreographer, I like to do juxtapositions of men and women, all shapes and sizes, in all kinds of environments. And for this movie, I had this idea of John Wick up against the biggest fighter I could find, in the stacks of a public library, so the guy would barely fit."

He couldn't think of any seven-foot stuntmen, and though he knew there were obviously plenty of tall athletic guys in the NBA, Stahelski confesses, "I know literally zero about basketball. But I'm talking to one of our producers who's this huge basketball fan, and he says, 'Look, I think I got the guy. He's this (Serbian) guy who's done commercials and he's like 7-foot-8 and he's got the biggest hands in the NBA. Trust me.' And based on how excited he was, I was super-interested."

Still, he insisted on a tryout for Marjanovic.

"So I met him and gave him to the stunt team for two hours so they could evaluate him, and they came back and said, 'Oh, yeah, this guy can move, he's going to be really good.'"

Was Marjanovic on board form the jump? "Hell yeah," he said in an interview before the Sixers' convincing playoff win Thursday night against the Toronto Raptors. "It was a new experience for me. The movies are amazing, great movies, everybody loves these movies. Movies that I've watched many times and then to get called to be a part of it is amazing."

In the scene, Boban's character is the first of what will be a hundred or so assassins who try to kill Wick, so it's a small role but with a prominent position in the film. Reeves is the star, of course, and the outcome of the scene is never in doubt. Even so, Stahelski finds some (wait for it) novel ways to administer the final blow. The phrase "eat your words" comes to mind.

"He a super-nice guy. Very humble, and I remember he paid a lot of attention to detail. He really practiced his lines, and he got a lot of coaching from Keanu. This is like his first movie gig, and he's quoting Dante's Inferno, so it was a lot to ask. I give him credit, because that was a long day, and he really held up well and contributed."

"Wow. This is a lot of compliments, he can move, big, tall, looks good," Marjanovic said, laughing at his own joke, when he heard Staheleski's review of his performance. "Perfect."

It's not unusual, Stahelski said, for Reeves to set aside time to help a guy like Marjanovic. Stahelski caught a big break working as Reeves' stunt double in The Matrix (and its sequels). The two became friends, and Reeves encouraged Stahelski (and stunt partner David Leitch) in their ambition to become directors.

The two men got some work as second-unit directors on a couple of films (The Hunger Games, After Earth, Captain American: Civil War), and when the script for John Wick circulated, they expressed interest.

They got the job when Reeves essentially vouched for them. Stahelski said Reeves was also instrumental in helping them hold out for a decent budget—the first was made for less than $20 million, almost unheard of for a movie shot on location in New York City.

"We basically made that work by calling favors from everybody we knew, the best-trained people in the business," he said.

Since then, the John Wick franchise has been a full-employment project for people in the stunt community—a chance for the professionals to ply their trade at a time when the industry relies more and more on computer-generated special effects in action sequences.

Egyptian actress faces backlash after appearing in blackface

CAIRO (AP)—An Egyptian actress has faced a backlash after appearing on a TV prank show in blackface in a demeaning imitation of a Sudanese woman.

In an episode of the "Shaklabaz" program aired last week, comedian Shimaa Seif tried to annoy people on a microbus by speaking loudly in the Sudanese dialect. She then asked a man for a kiss before revealing her true identity.

Many Sudanese viewers expressed outrage on social media, calling the performance insulting and racist. Others called for boycotting the TV station and the production company, with the hashtag "boycott MBC Masr" in Arabic.

Seif told local media that the scene was not intended to offend. She said the episode was aired years ago without provoking any negative reaction.

Egypt has a large community of Sudanese refugees and migrants who have long complained of discrimination and bigotry. This is not the first time Arab TV shows with racist tropes have sparked controversy.

Last year, an Egyptian series sparked anger by mocking the Sudanese dialect and depicting darker-skinned people as being poor or lazy. The show starred comedian Samir Ghanem and his daughter, Amy Ghanem, who wore dark makeup and wigs with Rastafarian-style braids.

In another sketch aired last year on state-run Kuwait TV, an ensemble of Kuwaiti actors appeared in blackface, wearing traditional Sudanese turbans and jalabeyas, the long garment worn by men in Upper Egypt and Sudan.

Lucha libre wrestler Silver King dies during London match

LONDON (AP) — A well-known Mexican wrestler who co-starred in the film comedy "Nacho Libre" died in London after he collapsed during a match that a witness described as so elaborately staged it wasn't immediately clear something seriously was wrong.

Cesar Cuauhtemoc Gonzalez Barron, who wrestled with the ring name Silver King, was one of the featured wrestlers of "The Greatest Show of Lucha Libre" on Saturday night. The north London performance venue, the Roundhouse, tweeted just after 12:30 a.m. Sunday that the 51-year-old "sadly lost his life" during the event.

Lucha Libre World, which promoted the Roundhouse event, said in a statement the lucha libre star "suffered what we believe was a cardiac arrest while performing in the show and sadly passed away."

Gonzalez appeared as a champion wrestler and comic villain in the 2006 movie "Nacho Libre", which starred Jack Black as a monk who wants to be a masked luchador. Lucha libre is a popular form of wrestling in Mexico that features colorful masks, elaborate costumes and acrobatic techniques.

The description of the show on the Roundhouse's website said the "awesome and immense Silver King" would take to the ring "portraying his villainous character, the evil rudo Ramses from his role" in the movie.

Britain's Press Association reported that Gonzalez's opponent, Juventud Guerrera (Spanish for "Youth Warrior") knocked him to the canvas twice.

Gonzalez was struggling to stand up from the first flooring when another blow from Juventud Guerrera sent him sprawling back down front first, the Press Association said. The victorious Young Warrior pinned Silver King and started celebrating his win, the news agency said.

Attendee Roberto Carrera Maldonado told the BBC the wrestler's condition initially appeared "staged" as part of the fight, before efforts were made to revive him and the audience was cleared from the venue.

"All of us were really shocked. It wasn't clear what was happening," Maldonado said. "I had the impression they didn't know what to do."

The London Ambulance Service said medics arrived five minutes after they were called to the Roundhouse on Saturday, but the patient was pronounced dead at the scene.

Gonzalez was the son of well-known Mexican wrestler who performed as Dr. Wagner, and one of his brothers is luchador Dr. Wagner Jr. He made his professional debut in the mid-1980s and worked for promoters in Mexico and Japan.

In 1994, he won the Consejo Mundial de Lucha Libre world heavyweight title. Gonzalez competed in World Championship Wrestling between 1997 and 2000, and during 2001-2006 used the ring name Black Tiger III. He went back to being Silver King after he was unmasked during a 2006 match.

Anger over author's critical post of worker eating on train

WASHINGTON (AP)—A writer on the verge of releasing her debut novel is facing a backlash after she posted a picture on Twitter of a public transit worker eating on a train and reported details about the woman to her bosses.

Natasha Tynes apologized a day later on Twitter and deleted her post before making her account private, but the publishing house distributing her novel dropped her and her publisher delayed the planned release of the book.

The response to Friday's post was almost immediate, with people upset that Tynes, who is Jordanian American and has called herself a "minority writer," would shame a black woman and possibly cause her to lose her job.

Tynes' post showed the woman in her work uniform eating on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority train. The authority doesn't allow drinking or eating on its trains and buses, although officials on Wednesday had advised police officers to stop issuing tickets for those violations.

"When you're on your morning commute & see @wmata employee in UNIFORM eating on the train I thought we were not allowed to eat on the train. This is unacceptable. Hope @wmata responds," Tynes wrote.

When the authority's Twitter account reached out for more information, Tynes replied with the time, the train and the direction it was traveling, The Washington Post reported.

Tynes "did something truly horrible today in tweeting a picture of a metro worker eating her breakfast on the train this morning and drawing attention to her employer. Black women face a constant barrage of this kind of inappropriate behavior directed toward them and a constant policing of their bodies," Tynes' publishing house, Rare Birds Books, said in a statement.

Tynes' publisher, California Coldblood, also issued a statement, saying "we do not condone her actions and hope Natasha learns from this experience that black women feel the effects of systematic racism the most and that we have to be allies, not oppressors."

The publisher said it was postponing the release of Tynes' novel "while we further discuss appropriate next steps to officially cancel." The novel, "They Called Me Wyatt," is about a murdered Jordanian student whose consciousness ends up in the body of a baby boy who as an adult tries to figure out what happened with her death.

This image released by Spectrum Originals dhows Gabrielle Union, left, and Jessica Alba in a scene from "L.A.'s Finest." Union and Alba star in and produce the new police detective series premiering May 13. AP

Gabrielle Union, Jessica Alba in charge of 'L.A.'s Finest'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Expanding a comic book's mythology can bring slighted characters to the forefront. That's also the case with "L.A.'s Finest," a TV series riff on the 2003 "Bad Boys II" movie in which women, notably women of color, are driving the action.

Gabrielle Union pursued the idea of reprising Syd Burnett, her character from the film who's on a new path as a Los Angeles police detective, with Jessica Alba joining her as detective Nancy McKenna. They're also in charge behind the camera, as executive producers on the series debuting Monday on the new Spectrum on-demand platform.

It's a measure, they say, of hard-won confidence in what they can do and in their value, despite entrenched resistance from the entertainment industry. Both are entrepreneurs outside of Hollywood—Alba with her baby and home products company, and Union with a fashion line.

When the two joined to talk about the series, they expanded the discussion to how newcomers such as Spectrum have created opportunities that were being dribbled out by broadcast networks. Here's a sampling of what they had to say, edited for brevity.

WHO'S THE BOSS?

Union: There's a pleasure in Jessica and I both being executive producers and creating a show where it's not one bad-ass woman but two bad-ass women, and two bad-ass women of color who are not only bosses in real life but bosses in front of and behind the camera. And for us to both be executive producers and to have a major say-so of what goes into the show and the experience in making the show, is by far one of the most rewarding and fulfilling things of my career.

Alba: We got to create an environment that we hadn't ever been part of, or we haven't seen ourselves in Hollywood over our 20 years-plus experience in the business. When Gab (Gabrielle) asked me to be part of the show, I said, "Here's some table stakes. I'm breastfeeding my newborn son, I have a 7- and 10-year-old, and I never want to feel weird or awkward about them being part of my life. They will come to set, and that needs to be cool with everyone. And if it's not, then this isn't the show that I should be part of." We always tried to be as effective and efficient as possible, but then also have a really supportive community where people's families can come to set.

RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME

Alba: When the story originally was being developed for a network, they very much wanted to fit us inside of these buckets or stereotypes, while we wanted to break out of those boundaries. At Spectrum, the women running the network really wanted us just to create the best show, and in that we got to create cool characters that have rich lives. They're flawed. They're complicated. They don't always agree. They're not competitive. They complement each other. But they also have fun and they're funny and they're witty and they're girls that you want to like grab a beer with or a shot of tequila with or cry with. And you just don't get to see women in this way.

Union: A lot of networks in the last few years have talked a big game about wanting diversity and inclusion—"We want shows headed by women, we want strong female leads." And the proof is in the pudding, and that that pudding is a little thin. But what you see on cable and streaming is people who actually walk the walk and talk the talk, and they put the money and resources behind developing, creating and actually putting on air shows with not one but two women, and two women of color who are allowed to be full-bodied, multi-dimensional characters. That's really never happened in any sort of meaningful way on network television.

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU

Alba: If we grandstand and say, "Hey, we're in this show and because we're women of color, you should tune in, that's (bull). We don't care about that. You're tuning in because it's cool and it works. The story lines work. They're rich. They're interesting, they're mysterious. The jokes are funny. They're not corny or cheesy. And we're not relying on any sort of stereotypical thing out there to get by. If it's successful or not, we all can look around and I think we can be really proud of what we've produced.

'Pikachu' tries to dethrone the 'Avengers,' but just misses

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Pokémon Detective Pikachu" gave "Avengers: Endgame" a run for its money this weekend at the box office, but the superheroes managed to hold on to the throne once again.

The Walt Disney Co. said Sunday that the Marvel blockbuster earned an estimated $63.1 million from its third weekend in North American theaters, bringing its domestic grosses to $723.5 million, surpassing the totals for "Black Panther" and "Avengers: Infinity War."

Goldstein added.

It even beat "Endgame" internationally by a very slight margin with $103 million.

Ryan Reynolds voices the popular Pokémon character in the film, which notched a record of its own: Biggest video game adaption opening. The previous record-holder was the Angelina Jolie "Tomb Raider" from 2001, which opened with $47 million, not adjusted for inflation.

"Typically movies based on video games haven't been all that successful," Goldstein said.

1. "**Avengers: Endgame**," $63.1 million ($102.3 million international).
2. "**Pokémon Detective Pikachu**," $58 million ($103 million international).
3. "**The Hustle**," $13.6 million ($13.7 million international).
4. "**The Intruder**," $6.6 million.
5. "**Long Shot**," $6.1 million ($1.6 million international).
6. "**Poms**," $5.1 million ($736,000 international).
7. "**Uglydolls**," $3.9 million ($522,000 international).
8. "**Breakthrough**," $2.5 million.
9. "**Tolkien**," $2.2 million ($200,283 international).
10. "**Captain Marvel**," $1.8 million.

A person in a Pikachu character costume attends the premiere of "Pokemon Detective Pikachu" at Military Island in Times Square on Thursday, May 2, 2019, in New York. AP

Internationally, it added $102.3 million, bringing its global total to just shy of $2.5 billion where it remains the second biggest worldwide release of all time behind "Avatar" ($2.8 billion.)

But three weeks into "Avengers" dominance, the market finally had some room for another film to make a substantial impact. Warner Bros. managed to draw a significant audience to its live-action "Pokémon Detective Pikachu," which opened on 4,202 screens and earned an estimated $58 million from ticket sales.

"What a terrific result," said Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros. head of domestic distribution. "It's so much fun to watch 'Detective Pikachu' have this kind of opening."

And there's no bad blood that "Endgame" powered past "Pikachu" in the end.

"It was fun to win Friday night, but as they say in golf, you play your own game and I'm thrilled with our result,"

It was a mixed bag for other newcomers looking for a piece of the market, including two women-led comedies strategically launching on Mother's Day: "The Hustle" and "Poms," which both attracted an overwhelmingly female audience.

"The Hustle," a gender-flipped spin on "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" with Anne Hathaway and Rebel Wilson, landed in third place with $13.6 million despite lackluster reviews.

Less lucky was the Diane Keaton cheerleading comedy "Poms," which grossed only $5.1 million in its debut against similarly negative reviews from critics. "Poms" placed sixth behind the thriller "The Intruder" ($6.6 million) and the Seth Rogen and Charlize Theron rom-com "Long Shot" ($6.1 million), which are both in their second weekends.

In smaller releases, "Tolkien," a biopic about the "Lord of the Rings" author starring Nicholas Hoult opened in ninth place on 1,495 screens with $2.2 million, while the documentary "The Biggest Little Farm" debuted in five locations and earned $101,012.

And while not every film was a hit this weekend, the diversity of content is important to the marketplace, noted Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. Overall, the industry-wide box office continues to get stronger as the year goes on. The weekend is up around 23%, and the year is down around 9%. Three weeks ago, pre-"Endgame," that year-to-date deficit was at 17%.

"It should never be about just one type of movie," said Dergarabedian. "That used to be the thing about summer, it was about drawing in the 18-24 year olds with superhero movies and action movies. In today's world, summer offers a much more eclectic and diverse mix and that's paying dividends for Hollywood."

And May has more big movies to come, including "Aladdin," "Rocketman," "John Wick 3: Parabellum and "Godzilla: King of the Monsters."

"May could be a monster at the box office," Dergarabedian said.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

German party rescinds invite to pundit Milo Yiannopoulos

BERLIN (AP)—The nationalist Alternative for Germany party has withdrawn an invitation for right-wing British writer Milo Yiannopoulos to speak at an event in parliament Saturday.

The party confirmed Friday that Yiannopoulos, who has been banned from Facebook and Twitter for breaching the sites' policies on hate speech, won't be taking part in a seminar for bloggers.

German media reported that Alternative for Germany lawmakers had a heated discussion Friday about Yiannopoulos' past comments appearing to defend pedophilia.

Yiannopoulos lost his job at Breitbart News over the comments two years ago, has since said they were misguided.

Alternative for Germany had earlier failed to secure former White House strategist and ex-Breitbart chief Steve Bannon as a speaker at its conference.

Rapper Kodak Black arrested; Lil Wayne bows out of show

MIAMI (AP)—The Rolling Loud Music Festival celebrating global hip-hop artists in South Florida did not go so well for Kodak Black and Lil Wayne.

The U.S. Marshals Service said in a news release that Black was arrested Saturday at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens. The statement said he was charged with a crime in connection with weapons, but didn't elaborate.

Meanwhile, Lil Wayne said on social media that he refused to perform after being subjected to a search by security personnel or police. It wasn't immediately clear Sunday who had done the pat-down on the superstar rapper, whose real name is Dwayne Michael Carter Jr.

But here's what he had to say on Twitter:

"To all my fans who came to see me at Rolling Loud, I'm sorry but I won't be performing," the post says. "The Festival Police (Not Rolling Loud) made it mandatory that I had to be policed and checked to get on the stadium grounds. I do not and will not ever settle for being policed to do my job."

Lil Wayne has sold more than 100 million records worldwide. According to his Twitter post, he later performed at the Story nightclub in Miami Beach.

As for Kodak Black, whose current name is Bill Kapri and who was born as Dieuson Octave to Haitian American parents in Florida, this arrest is the latest in a lengthy rap sheet he has assembled at the age of 21.

Authorities say Black will make an initial appearance in Miami federal court Monday. Court records don't list a lawyer for him.

Most recently, Black was arrested last month on drug and weapons charges as he crossed from Canada into the U.S. near Niagara Falls, New York. In Florida, he has been charged at different times with drug and weapons possession, armed robbery, sexual assault, probation violations and fleeing from officers.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and Miami-Dade County police were also involved in his most recent arrest.

Want free TV? Owner of 'Chicken Soup' books is betting on it

By TALI ARBEL
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Costs for cable and video services like Netflix are rising. One alternative is a free service such as Pluto, Tubi or Popcornflix. They have ads and stream shows and movies that tend to be older, like the original "Roseanne" or "Fight Club."

The Associated Press spoke with Bill Rouhana, CEO of Chicken Soup for the Soul, a company that owns Popcornflix and recently bought a majority stake in Sony's Crackle. (It also owns the schmaltzy namesake books.) Questions and responses have been edited for length and clarity.

Q: Why are your video apps free?

A: Netflix did the entire industry a major service by paving the way. Most people have taken to imitating what they've done. But the statistics have shown clearly that consumers also would prefer to have an option that's free. And that's ad-supported.

Q: Who are your competitors?

A: It's Roku. It's YouTube. It's us. It's Pluto. It's Tubi. YouTube and Roku are about half together. And we are one of the dominant players in the non-Roku-YouTube half.

Q: As a user, I would like ads contained in one spot rather than sprinkled throughout a video. What do advertisers want?

A: They don't want their ad repeated over and over again in the same ad block. And they want to be watched. By having too many ads in a row you give people an opportunity to get up and go. That argues against your preference, which would have been to put them all together.

Q: Yeah, exactly, because then I could just skip them!

A: Exactly why they don't want you to do that.

Q: What's the right number of ads to show per hour?

A: It's not just how many. It's also when. We haven't settled on the right answer yet.

Q: Services like yours aren't that well-known. How do people find your stuff?

A: Right now people find us by Googling "free movies."

Q: So are most people watching movies rather than TV?

A: No. But I've noticed that's the way they find us most often. When they get to the sites they start to look around. A lot of them like to watch old TV shows. They feel comfortable. It's amazing to me how many people watch "Friends" on Netflix.

Q: What do you think of the Federal Communications Commission no longer prohibiting Comcast, Verizon and other broadband providers from interfering with online traffic from video and other services?

A: I haven't seen any impact from any of the changes, but I do wonder about it. I can see both sides of that argument. There is a cost of infrastructure, which has to be borne. We have to figure out a way to be sure the guys who are providing the infrastructure can continue to do it.

Meghan, Harry release baby feet photo for US Mother's Day

LONDON (AP)—Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, have released a photo of their newborn baby's feet to mark Meghan's first Mother's Day as a mom.

The image posted Sunday on Instagram showed Meghan's hand cradling the feet of her son, Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor, with a bed of spring flowers below serving as the background.

The text reads: "Paying tribute to all mothers today - past, present, mothers-to-be, and those lost but forever remembered. We honor and celebrate each and every one of you."

The post also included lines from a poem called "Lands" by Nayyirah Waheed: "my/mother/was/my first country;/the first place I ever lived."

Mother's Day was celebrated Sunday in the United States, Canada and many other countries. Britain's Mother's Day was on March 31 this year.

AP

In this undated photo made available on Sunday, May 12, 2019 by @SussexRoyal, Meghan the Duchess of Sussex holds the feet of her baby, Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor.

Wedding planning prompts bride to question marriage

DEAR ABBY: I'm getting married in a few months, and with all of the wedding planning, I have realized that in my fiance's priorities, I come last, as do my opinions and desires.

We were supposed to go to a nice restaurant for his birthday, so I made reservations a month in advance. Yesterday (two days before his birthday) his parents decided they wanted to take him out to dinner to celebrate it. He immediately canceled our plans to go to the nice restaurant so he can have dinner with them.

I told him it seems like I always come last, and no matter what we plan, if his parents say go, he goes. He said that isn't true, but it is. Now that I realize I will never come first, I'm having doubts about marrying him.

When I told him we should hold off on getting married, he said we are NOT postponing the wedding, and we WILL get married on the date we picked. Although I express my feelings about postponing the wedding almost every day, I get nowhere. Now I feel like I'm being forced to marry someone I'm not sure I want to marry.

I'm not in a good emotional state, and I am constantly thinking of suicide. If I'm forced to marry someone I don't want to, how am I supposed to have a happy and healthy life?

MIXED UP IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR MIXED UP: Because you are having suicidal thoughts, it is imperative that you talk with a mental health professional who can guide you back on track. Please do this RIGHT AWAY! If you and your fiance haven't had premarital counseling, insist upon it NOW. And absolutely postpone that wedding. Feeling as you do, and under these circumstances, you should not marry ANYONE.

DEAR ABBY: I read you every morning, and I need your advice. I am writing you from a nursing home. I am 97 years old, and I am in a wheelchair because I cannot stand, but I still make up my bed. I am an artist, and I still paint. I give the paintings I create to those who help me.

My room is small, and it will not hold a lot of stuff. I have a grandson who brings me clothes and food because I cannot eat much because of my teeth.

My problem is, when old friends come to see me, they bring beautiful gifts. They are kind, but I cannot use what they bring—a comforter that is much too big for my bed, extra pillows or very large books that are hard to keep in my small space, although I love reading.

The nursing home is nice, and I get good care. It is kept clean, and they see I get what I need. I feel blessed.

Abby, I love my friends and don't want to hurt their feelings. This issue of gifts has become more than I know how to deal with. Can you help me know what to tell them?

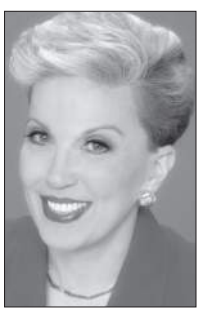
GRATEFUL IN TEXAS

DEAR GRATEFUL: Tell these lovely—and generous—friends that you deeply appreciate their caring and generosity, but because your room is so small, you have no place to put the items. If they haven't been in your room, show it to them so they can see for themselves.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

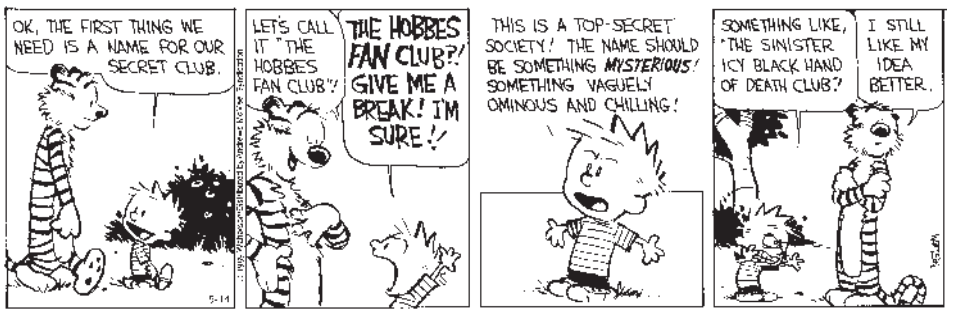


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

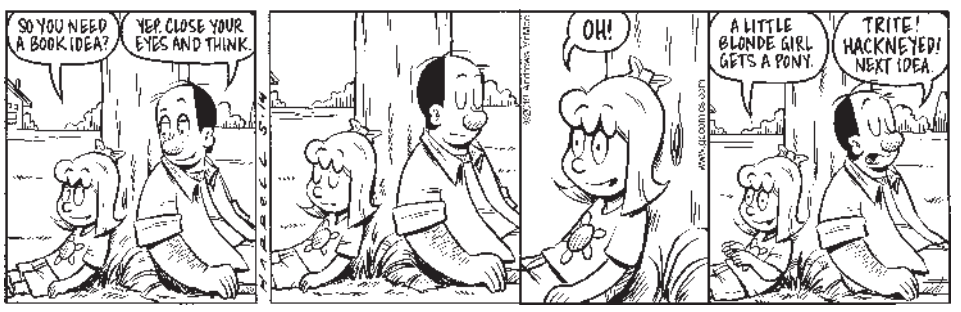

OK, THE FIRST THING WE NEED IS A NAME FOR OUR SECRET CLUB.
LET'S CALL IT "THE HOBBES FAN CLUB"!
THE HOBBES FAN CLUB?! GIVE ME A BREAK! I'M SURE!
THIS IS A TOP-SECRET SOCIETY! THE NAME SHOULD BE SOMETHING MYSTERIOUS! SOMETHING VAGUELY OMINOUS AND CHILLING!
SOMETHING LIKE, "THE SINISTER ICY BLACK HAND OF DEATH CLUB?"
I STILL LIKE MY IDEA BETTER.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

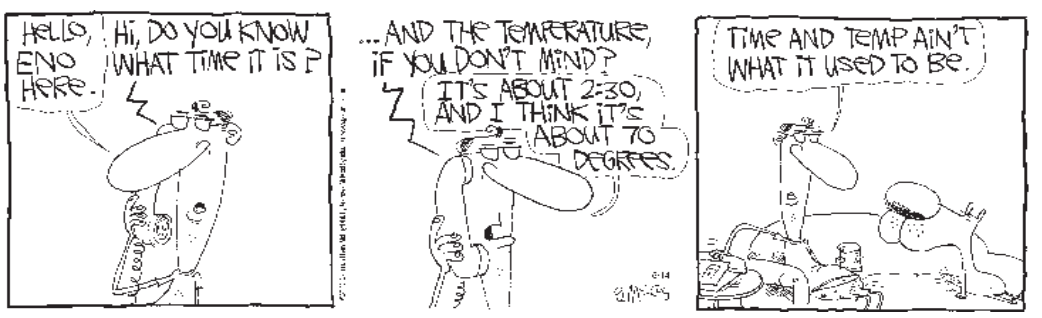
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


HELLO, ENO HERE.
HI, DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?
...AND THE TEMPERATURE, IF YOU DON'T MIND?
IT'S ABOUT 2:30, AND I THINK IT'S ABOUT 70 DEGREES.
TIME AND TEMP AIN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

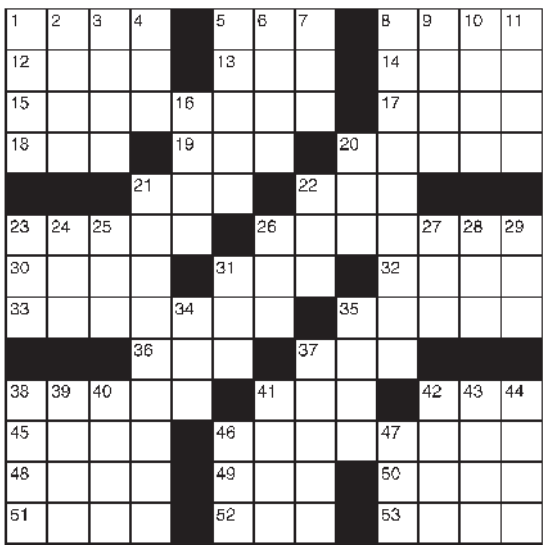
ACROSS
1 Two-wheeler
5 Bumped into
8 Pack (down)
12 Ireland
13 Peyton's brother
14 "The Time Machine" people
15 Octopus arm
17 Lunch hour
18 Request
19 IV measures
20 Must-haves
21 Chai, e.g.
22 Vagrant
23 More recent
26 Goddess of wisdom
30 Tehran's country
31 Sly one
32 Tidy
33 Workshop cutter
35 Rock
36 Very long time
37 Possesses
38 Brainy
41 Small barrel
42 "The Wedding Planner" actress, to fans
45 New York's — Field
46 Bicycle type
48 N. Mex. neighbor
49 — Lingus
50 Pitt of "Moneyball"
51 Carry
52 Layer
53 Round Table titles

DOWN
1 Test version
2 Enrages
3 Neck problem
4 Tolkien creature
5 Pilgrimage site
6 Building wings
7 Dead heat
8 Some urban homes
9 Medicinal plant
10 Disposition
11 Bowling targets
16 Computer brand
20 Convent manager
21 Prepare meat for cooking
22 Beiderbecke of jazz
23 Pen tip
24 Mound stat
25 Pallid
26 Trim the grass
27 Old Oldsmobile
28 Moving day rental
29 Packed away
31 Summer cooler
34 Drunkard
35 Droops
37 Ford or Hudson
38 Ella's style
39 Surrealist Joan
40 Bickering
41 Fall (over)
42 Ryan of "Boston Public"
43 Tragic king
44 Probability
46 Light touch
47 "Frontline" airer

Solution time: 22 mins.

M	A	P			A	B	C		G	R		P
I	L	L	S		T	R	A		L	C	V	I
T	O	O	K		T	A	R		A	V	E	C
T	E	P	I	D		M	O	C	S			
			N	O	S		B	E	S	T	O	W
T	O	W	N	C	A	R		O	S	A	G	E
E	B	A	Y		B	A	M		L	O	R	E
C	O	L	D	S		P	R	A		S	E	D
H	E	L	I	U	M		I	M	P			
			P	R	A	Y		O	P	I	N	E
G	U	L	P		N	E			E	G	A	L
A	L	E	E		I	W	O		H	O	S	A
S	I	A	H		A	S	H			R	A	N

Yesterday's answer 5-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Miranda Cosgrove, 26; Cate Blanchett, 50; Tim Roth, 58; George Lucas, 75.

Happy Birthday: Size up situations and take control. Turn your dreams into a reality. Let experience be your guide to a better and brighter future. Concentrate on personal accomplishments that encourage you to look and do your best. Avoid joint ventures and expenditures that aren't necessary. How you deal with your peers and take care of business will make a difference. Your numbers are 4, 11, 23, 28, 35, 39, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Focus on getting things done. Don't rely on others to do things for you. Abide by rules, and read the fine print. Pursue the people and pastimes that inspire you the most. Romance will improve your personal life. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Make your position clear. Speak up and make plans that will help you reach your goal. Walk away from situations that appear indulgent or expensive. Know what you want, and negotiate on your own behalf. Do your own thing. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Get everything in place before you decide to share your ideas and plans with others. You'll have a tendency to think too big, and that can lead to trouble if you make premature promises. Stick to what's doable. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't let a challenge get you down when it's meant to get you moving. Embrace any opportunity to try something new or to initiate a change at home that is constructive and geared toward saving more and living with less. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Refuse to let an emotional situation lead to an argument or dispute that will put you in an awkward position. Adjust to whatever situation you face, and get things done so you can move on to more enjoyable tasks. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Change should begin within yourself. Don't let anyone force you into something that causes uncertainty. Take the initiative, and set your goals as well as the pace you want to maintain. Consistency and communication will be your tickets to success. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Emotions will surface when dealing with money, legal or health matters. Rely on common sense and research, and investigate all your options thoroughly. How you go about reaching your goal without letting anyone interfere is recommended. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You can bring about favorable changes by using knowledge, communicating with the people who will be affected by the choices you make and taking the initiative to fulfill your dream. A partnership will bring out the best in you. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Put greater emphasis on how you look and feel, and the way you treat others. Partnerships will make a difference, and trust will be crucial if you plan to get ahead. Personal improvements should be made. It's time to up your game. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't trust others to do things for you. Remain focused on your objective, and push forward until you reach your goal. Home improvements are favored, but joint ventures are not. Spend cautiously, and use common sense regarding matters that involve institutions. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* A change may be inevitable. Concentrate on what you do best, and take care of your health and physical fitness. A good workout will help you adjust to whatever situation you face and clear your head to ensure you make better choices. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Handle an emotional situation and partnerships with care. An argument will not help matters and can lead to emotional or financial loss. Look for a positive and sensible solution that will deter being taken advantage of. Rely on your intuition. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are capable, enthusiastic and charming. You are ambitious and resilient.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3		7	2			8
	4	6		1		
	2				9	
4		8	9			1
7					6	
9		4	6			5
	9				2	
	7	9		3		
1		5	7			4

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	4	3	2	7	8	6	1	5
8	2	6	3	5	1	7	4	9
5	7	1	6	9	4	8	2	3
6	5	4	1	2	7	3	9	8
3	9	8	5	4	6	1	7	2
2	1	7	8	3	9	4	5	6
1	3	5	7	8	2	9	6	4
4	6	2	9	1	3	5	8	7
7	8	9	4	6	5	2	3	1

Difficulty Level ★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

BERNARDO BERTOLUCCI (1941-2018) **Solution: 8 letters**

M	L	D	X	Y	S	F	E	A	T	U	R	E	W	T
A	A	I	A	N	A	C	N	S	A	N	G	R	E	U
S	D	R	M	O	S	U	R	A	B	B	I	A	R	B
T	D	E	I	G	L	E	T	E	V	E	N	I	C	E
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Ryu flirts with no-hitter in Nationals win

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hyun-Jin Ryu has been dominant for the Dodgers since the start of last season. His latest gem nearly topped them all.

The left-hander took a no-hitter into the eighth inning and Corey Seager hit a grand slam as Los Angeles blanked the Washington Nationals 6-0 on Sunday to split a four-game series that featured three shutouts.

Gerardo Parra doubled with one out in the eighth for Washington's only hit.

"The past couple games I have been in a good rhythm," Ryu said through a translator. "I just try to use their weakness, be aggressive and attack the zone. I don't think about having no-hit stuff. It was about executing the game plan."

Ryu (5-1) struck out nine in eight innings and threw a career-high 116 pitches, 79 for strikes. He fired a four-hit shutout in his previous start Tuesday against Atlanta.

It was the second time Ryu carried a no-hitter into the eighth at Dodger Stadium. He held Cincinnati hitless in 2014 until Todd Frazier led off the eighth with a double.

"To watch him work as a technician, it was masterful. He wasn't stressed at all," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said.

Ryu has tossed 25 straight scoreless innings and is 12-4 with a major league-leading 1.71 ERA since April 10, 2018. Opponents are batting .205 against him during that span.

As stingy as those numbers are, Ryu is even better at Dodger Stadium—going 7-0 with a 0.90 ERA in his last seven home starts.

Seager, who drove in five runs, said he tried not to think about Ryu possibly closing in on a no-hitter, but it started to creep into his mind in the latter innings

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Hyun-Jin Ryu throws to the Washington Nationals during the third inning of a baseball game Sunday, May 12, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Giants president says Holland's injury wasn't 'fake'

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — San Francisco Giants president of baseball operations Farhan Zaidi said the injury that sent left-hander Derek Holland to the injured list last month was legitimate and praised the veteran's competitive spirit, a day after Holland said he was sidelined with a "fake injury."

Zaidi said Sunday that medical records back up the legitimacy of Holland's injury, described by the team as a bone bruise on his left index finger.

He said there are often differences of opinion between players and management about the severity of injuries.

"The guy gets hit by a truck, he can't walk out on the field. That's I guess an unequivocal injury, but there's a lot of gray area beyond that," Zaidi said.

Holland blasted the Giants' front office Saturday night after he learned from manager Bruce Bochy that he was being moved to the bullpen.

"To be honest I have no idea what they're doing," Holland said. "I don't mean that by Bochy and them, it's more the front office. They keep changing a lot of things. I did a fake injury. I'm not happy about that. But at the end of the day I'm going to do whatever they ask me to do."

The 32-year-old was placed on the IL April 29, retroactive to the previous day. In his first outing after being activated, Holland gave up seven runs in 2 2/3 innings Thursday at Colorado amid heavy snowfall.

"I feel equally bad that when he did get back out there, it was in a blizzard," Zaidi said. "I don't know how much of kind of the cold and weather, interacting with whatever lack of feel he has in the finger, contributed to what happened in Colorado."

Zaidi said Holland didn't want to go on the IL last month and was told he would only miss one start.

"Guys want to play," Zaidi said. "I love the fact that Derek wants to be out there. That's one of the reasons we brought him back."

Holland signed a one-year, $7 million contract in January to return to San Francisco for a second year. He is 1-4 with a 6.75 ERA.

Red Sox 11, Mariners 2

In Boston, J.D. Martinez hit two homers, rookie Michael Chavis drove in five runs and the surging Red Sox beat the stumbling Seattle Mariners 11-2 to complete a three-game sweep Sunday at soggy Fenway Park.

The World Series champions have won five straight games and 16 of 22 following a 6-13 start.

Omar Narváez homered for Seattle (20-23), which has lost four in a row and 15 of 19 after opening 13-2. The Mariners were outscored 34-8 in the series, completing a 2-8 trip.

Yankees 7, Rays 1

In St. Petersburg, Masahiro Tanaka (3-3) matched his season high of seven innings, allowing one run and five hits with seven strikeouts and no walks to outpitch reigning Cy Young Award winner Blake Snell. New York closed back within one-half game of AL East-leading Tampa Bay.

Thairo Estrada homered just after play resumed following a ninth-inning power outage that caused a 43-minute delay.

Astros 15, Rangers 5

In Houston, George Springer was 5 for 5 with four RBIs and a pair of home runs that increased total to an AL-high 15 as the Astros completed a four-game sweep of Texas and extended its winning streak to five.

Alex Bregman also homered twice and tied his career high with five RBIs as the Astros set season highs for runs and hits (18). Corbin Martin (1-0) struck out nine in his major league debut, allowing two runs, three hits and one walk in 5 1/3 innings.

Cubs 4, Brewers 1

In Chicago, Jon Lester pitched 6 2/3 gutsy innings, Kris Bryant hit a two-run homer and the Cubs beat Milwaukee to take a weekend series between the top teams in the NL Central.

Lester (3-1) gave Chicago exactly what it needed a day after it used seven relievers during a 2-1 victory in 15 innings. Taking the mound on a rainy, cold night at Wrigley Field, the ace left-hander allowed an unearned run and nine hits while throwing a season-high 116 pitches.

White Sox 5, Blue Jays 1

In Toronto, Lucas Giolito (4-1) allowed one run and four hits in seven innings to win his second straight start, matching his season high with eight strikeouts as Chicago the Blue Jays.

Tim Anderson and Yonder Alonso homered for Chicago.

Toronto lost for the 10th time in 12 games and dropped to a season-worst eight games below .500.

Tigers 5, Twins 3

In Minneapolis, Nicholas Castellanos was a triple short of the cycle, hitting a two-run homer to lead Detroit past Minnesota.

Daniel Norris (2-1) gave up two runs and six hits in 6 1/3 innings, his longest start since May 24, 2017.

Ehire Adrianza homered and had two hits for the Twins, but designated hitter Nelson Cruz exited in the seventh inning because of a left wrist injury.

Phillies 6, Royals 1

In Kansas City, Cole Irvin (1-0) threw seven innings of one-run ball, allowing five hits with one walk and five strikeouts in his major league debut, and Philadelphia beat the Phillies.

J.T. Realmuto hit a two-run double and Odubel Herrera followed with a two-run single in a six-run fifth inning that began off Jakob Junis (3-4).

Pirates 10, Cardinals 6

In St. Louis, Josh Bell hit a tying three-run homer off John Brebbia (1-2) in the seventh and drove in a career-high five runs, and Adam Frazier hit a tiebreaking, pinch-hit double. Pittsburgh scored five times in the seventh inning and twice in the eighth to rally from a 6-3 deficit and beat the Cardinals.

Paul Goldschmidt and José Martínez homered for the Cardinals, who have lost five of six and nine of 11.

Rockies 10, Padres 7

In Denver, Charlie Blackmon homered twice, Antonio Senzatela pitched effectively into the seventh inning and Colorado held on to beat San Diego.

Raimel Tapia had three hits, including a two-run homer, and pinch-hitter Daniel Murphy hit a three-run double for the Rockies, who took two of three from San Diego.

Orioles 5, Angels 1

In Baltimore, Chris Davis homered in his return to the cleanup spot in Baltimore's batting order, going deep for the second time in three games, and the Orioles beat Los Angeles to avoid a three-game sweep.

Davis hit cleanup for the first time since Aug. 27. The 33-year-old is hitting .290 (18 for 62) with five home runs and 17 RBIs since stopping a 0-for-54 skid on April 13.

Giants 6, Reds 5

In San Francisco, Pablo Sandoval homered and doubled in his second three-hit game this season, scoring the go-ahead run on Kevin Pillar's two-out single in the eighth inning to lift San Francisco over Cincinnati.

Sandoval hit a two-run, opposite-field homer to left in the first off Tyler Mahle that tied the score 2-2, his fourth home run this season. He singled in the sixth.

Indians 5, Athletics 3

In Oakland, Roberto Pérez hit a three-run homer in the sixth inning and Cleveland beat Oakland.

Carlos González and Luplow reached on consecutive one-out singles against starter Daniel Mengden (0-1). After reliever Ryan Buchter retired Jake Bauers on a liner, Pérez drove a first-pitch fastball deep into the left field stands.

Jefry Rodríguez (1-2) allowed three runs in six innings for his first win. The right-hander gave up six hits and three walks with three strikeouts.

Kawhi's buzzer-beater brings Raptors to East finals

TORONTO (AP)— Kawhi Leonard bounced, bounced, bounced, bounced the Philadelphia 76ers out of the playoffs.

Leonard hit a shot from the corner over Joel Embiid at the buzzer that bounced off the rim four times before falling to give the Toronto Raptors a 92-90 victory over the 76ers on Sunday night in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference semifinal series. It was the first winning buzzer-beater in a Game 7 in NBA history.

"It was great," Leonard said. "That's something I never experienced before, Game 7, a game-winning shot. It was a blessing to be able to get to that point and make that shot and feel that moment."

After Philadelphia's Jimmy Butler tied it with a driving layup with 4.2 seconds left, Toronto used its final timeout to draw up a play for Leonard, who dribbled toward the right corner and launched the high-arching shot.

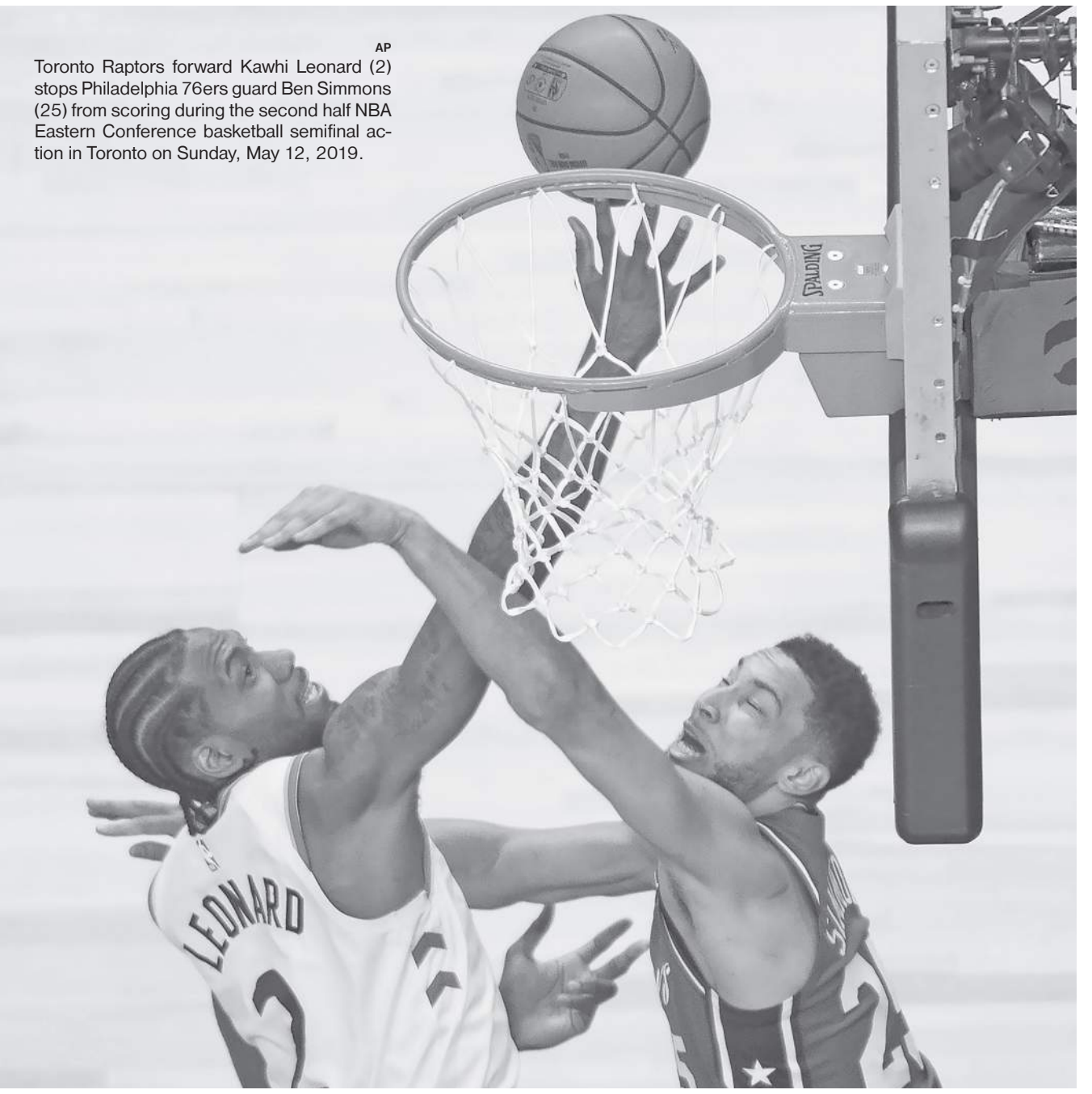
It bounced to the top of the backboard, hit the near side of the rim again, then the other side twice before going through, setting off a wild celebration as the Raptors advanced to the conference finals for the second time in four seasons. They will open the conference finals Wednesday night at Milwaukee.

"It's tough," Butler said. "Nobody likes to lose, not that way.

Leonard scored 41 points on 16-of-39 shooting.

"He was awesome at both ends," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. "That's his uniqueness. Not only can he get you 30 and anywhere upwards from that, but there's moments when he can just decide you're not scoring, either."

The Raptors ran a similar play for Leonard during the first round against Orlando.



AP

Toronto Raptors forward Kawhi Leonard (2) stops Philadelphia 76ers guard Ben Simmons (25) from scoring during the second half NBA Eastern Conference basketball semifinal action in Toronto on Sunday, May 12, 2019.

That time, he caught the ball and shot without dribbling.

"Remembering that moment, I knew I had some time to try to get some space, rather than just catch and shoot the ball," Leonard said. "I ended up finding a spot that I like, that I work on. I just knew I had to shoot it high."

Serge Ibaka added 17 points, and Pascal Siakam had 11 points and 11 rebounds for Toronto.

Embiid, in tears as he left the court, led the 76ers with 21 points and 11 rebounds. JJ Redick had 17 points, Butler added 16, and Tobias Harris had 15 points and 10 rebounds.

"I give Toronto credit for a tenacious, switching defense," 76ers coach Brett Brown said. "We had a hard time turning the corner once they did switch."

Redick tied it at 85 with a three-point play with 3:29 left. Nearly two minutes passed before the next basket, Leonard's long jumper with 1:41 to go that was initially ruled a 3, but changed to a 2 after video review.

On Philadelphia's next possession, Kyle Lowry forced a steal near midcourt and fed Siakam for a fast-break layup, giving Toronto an 89-85 lead with 1:14 left.

Butler made one of two at the line and Leonard missed a pair of jump shots, giving the 76ers the ball down 89-86 with 24.1 seconds remaining. Embiid was fouled and made both, cutting it to 89-88 with 12 seconds left.

Leonard was fouled with 10.8 seconds left. He made the first, but missed the second, setting up Butler's tying layup.

Toronto opens the Eastern Conference Finals at Milwaukee on Wednesday night. The Raptors lost three of four against the Bucks in the regular season and finished two games behind Milwaukee in the race for the NBA's best record.

McCollum rallies Blazers past Nuggets in Game 7

DENVER (AP) — CJ McCollum scored 37 points and the Portland Trail Blazers overcame a 17-point first-half deficit to beat the Denver Nuggets 100-96 on Sunday to advance to the Western Conference Finals for the first time since 2000.

Evan Turner, who scored just four points in the first six games of the series, added 14 points, including 10 in the fourth quarter. The Trail Blazers advanced to face the two-time defending NBA champion Golden State Warriors, beginning Tuesday night in Oakland, California.

Turner corralled the rebound when Nikola Jokic's desperation 3-pointer hit the rim and dribbled out the clock, sending the stunned crowd streaming to the exits at the Pepsi Center, where the Nuggets owned the best record in the league during the regular season but where they lost twice to Portland in the series.

The Nuggets raced to a 39-22 lead and Game 7 was beginning to look a lot like Game 5, when Denver blew out Portland by 26 points in this building. But Blazers coach Terry Stotts called a timeout with 7:26 left in the second quarter and his team began chipping away.

"There wasn't going to be any quit," Stotts said. "I didn't think they ever stopped believing. ... It was just about regrouping."

The Blazers were down 48-39 at halftime and trailed by just a point head into the fourth quarter.

That's when the Nuggets' hopes of reaching their first Western Conference Finals in a decade died with a 7-of-24 shooting performance, including 3 of 10 from Jokic, who tearfully blamed himself in the locker room for the loss.

Nonsense, said his coach, Michael Malone, who said Jokic proved to the world in these last 14 playoff games that he's the best big man in basketball and he only petered out at the end because the Nuggets had to rely so heavily on their 7-foot All-Star.

It was a devastating end to Denver's season after the Nuggets ended a six-year playoff drought and earned the second seed in the Western Conference bracket.

"I'm not going to allow Game 7 loss to take away from a magical year," Malone said, "and it doesn't feel that way right now but when I reflect, and when our players reflect, on what we were able to accomplish—hell of a year, couldn't ask for anything more from our guys."

McCollum, who had 30 points in Portland's Game 6 victory, came up big on a night Damian Lillard made just 3 of 17 shots for 13 points. But two of those buckets were crucial 3-pointers in the fourth quarter.

The first one gave Portland an 81-76 lead and the second one made it 92-85 and followed Lillard's steal of Jokic's outlet pass.

Jokic led Denver with 29 points, but missed 15 shots.

Irving reportedly eyeing playing for Lakers next season

Kyrie Irving and LeBron James went through one of the most public teammate divorces less than two years ago when Irving requested a trade from James' Cleveland Cavaliers, but they could be headed for a reunion.

According to ESPN's Brian Windhorst, Irving is growing more open to the possibility of signing with the Los Angeles Lakers in free agency.

"I would've said that this is impossible for many months," Windhorst said on ESPN radio. "But as time passes here and as the possibility exists that Jason Kidd could be hired as the Lakers coach, I think the possibility of Kyrie and LeBron reuniting—that door, which was deadbolted, has been un-deadbolted and has now been cracked open," he said. "It might even be opening more by the day. And I say that just because I think it's on Kyrie's radar, it's on Kyrie's board. He has had discussions with people about playing for the Lakers."

With the Celtics' disastrous end to the season, there has been plenty of chatter about Irving leaving in free agency, although most of rumors have him headed to the New York Knicks instead. Rejoining LeBron would be quite the turnaround.

Irving's trade request in July 2017 shocked the sports world in part because he and LeBron had just won Cleveland's first title a year earlier.

There were several factors that led to Irving's departure, and one of them was that he saw the writing on the wall for James' departure. Irving didn't want to get left behind in Cleveland without him, and he found a new contender to play with in Boston.

Irving was also excited for an opportunity to lead a team that was his own, as he always played in James' shadow in Cleveland. However, he got a taste of teammates not living up to his expectations, which led him call LeBron and apologize for their initial falling out.

The Lakers have long been looking for a second star to pair with LeBron, and at this point they can't be too picky about which All-Star they can land. Paul George and Kawhi Leonard seemed destined to land in LA, but neither ended up donning purple and gold.

And now that the organization has found its next head coach—the Lakers officially hired former Indiana Pacers coach Frank Vogel on Saturday afternoon, signing him to a three-year deal—it will undoubtedly turn its attention to landing at least one big name in free agency.

Irving would be a bona fide star who has already proven he can play well next to James. Furthermore, outside shooting was a major issue for the Lakers—they were 29th in 3-point shooting—and Irving has shot above 40 percent from beyond the arc in each of the last three seasons.

Man City frustrates Liverpool, keeps crown

AP

Manchester City's Aymeric Laporte, top, heads the ball to score his side's second goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Brighton and Manchester City at the AMEX Stadium in Brighton, England, Sunday, May 12, 2019.

BRIGHTON, England (AP)—All the strain Pep Guardiola feels during the pursuit of titles becomes worthwhile when a winners' medal is placed around his neck.

It happens a lot.

Manchester City won its second straight Premier League trophy on Sunday, finishing one point ahead of Liverpool in a thrilling title race and giving Guardiola eight league championships over 10 years in three countries.

"We're so, so tired, but at the same time winning the title gives you a lot of energy," Guardiola said after the clinching 4-1 victory over Brighton, "and is so addictive."

Winning has become routine for City in a way it never was before the flow of Abu Dhabi sovereign wealth began in 2008.

When Sheikh Mansour bought City, City's only English championships in a history stretching back to 1880 were won in 1937 and 1968.

Now the club that was trampled over for so many years by Manchester United— and had to escape the third tier 20 years ago this month—is the force of English football with four titles in eight seasons. City finished first in 2012 under Roberto Mancini and '14 led by Manuel Pellegrini, then under Guardiola became the first repeat champion in a decade since United.

Guardiola, who earned six league titles as a defensive midfielder for Barcelona in the 1990s, had hat tricks of league titles as coach at Barcelona and Bayern Munich.

"This is the toughest one," Guardiola said, "especially (because) of the rival we had to face all season."

Guardiola sets standards on the field that require rivals to raise theirs.

City trailed Liverpool by seven points in late December but won its final 14 games after a Jan. 29 defeat at Newcastle and finished with 98 points, the second-highest total in English history behind its 100 last year. Liverpool, chasing its first championship in 29 years, finished with the highest total for a non-champion.

"Liverpool was exceptional, I don't mean to rub it in, it is what it is, they didn't deserve to lose," said 33-year-old City captain Vincent Kompany, who helped maintain the lead last week when his long-range goal in the second half provided a 1-0 win over Leicester. "It makes me so much more happy that we played such a great team all season."

During a 21-minute stretch in the first half at Brighton, City gave hope to Liverpool supporters at Anfield, about 200 miles (320 kilometers) to the northwest.

With both grounds bathed in brilliant sunshine, Sadio Mané put Liverpool in front against Wolverhampton in the 17th minute and a jittery City fell behind 10 minutes later— the first time the champions had trailed in a league game since January.

"We heard the Brighton fans singing '1-0 to Liverpool' just at the moment we conceded," Kompany said.

Even when Sergio Aguero leveled 83 seconds after Glenn Murray's header, City only moved back into top spot when Aymeric Laporte nodded in from Riyad Mahrez's corner in the 38th minute.

It turned out to be the goal that decided the title.

But there were still nerves to be eased in the second half. Mahrez netted in the 63rd minute, a rare high point in his first season after joining City in a record 60 million pound (then $80 million) signing in July.

There was a stylish conclusion to City's title defense when Ilkay Gündogan scored from a free kick in the 72nd minute for the team's 95th goal in 38 league matches.

"We were creating chances, finding the gaps, imposing ourselves," Kompany said. "Though the pitch was slow I felt we were magnificent. We did everything we needed to do in a game such as today."

City became the first team to retain the trophy since Manchester United won its third straight in the 2007-08, one of 10 it earned under manager Alex Ferguson.

As City flew back to Manchester for a celebration with fans outside its Etihad Stadium, United supporters were reeling from a loss to Cardiff that saw Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side finish in sixth—32 points behind its neighbor—and without any silverware.

City remains on course for an English treble, having already collected a League Cup and preparing for the FA Cup final against Watford on Saturday.

"The big competitors are like this," Guardiola said. "They are never satisfied feeling this is enough."

But the future is not all bright for a club in the midst of multiple investigations by footballing authorities following leaks of internal correspondence.

The Premier League is looking into whether City broke any rules covering financial compliance, third-party ownership and the recruitment of youngsters.

Mewis scores twice to lead US past South Africa

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Samantha Mewis is finding her stride again just in time for her first World Cup.

Mewis scored goals in both halves and the U.S. women's national team began its World Cup send-off series with a 3-0 victory over South Africa on Sunday.

"Sammy's confidence just grows and grows and grows with match play and the experience that she gets out there," coach Jill Ellis said. "She's a dynamic player than can impact a game. When you go to a World Cup, your midfield, you need to have players that can score goals from distance, that can get in the box, that can obviously play make. There's versatility to Sam."

After starting every game for the national team in 2017, Mewis missed most of 2018 with a knee injury. But she has worked her way back and scored last month against Belgium and followed that up against South Africa with her second career two-goal game.

"Everyone on this team has been through adversity," Mewis said. "All of our journeys have been amazing in that they led us here. Sharing this with my teammates and sharing this with my family is the best part."

Carli Lloyd added her 108th career goal in second-half added time to the delight of the crowd of 22,788 at the home of the NFL's San Francisco 49ers. That moved Lloyd into fourth place in career goals for the U.S., breaking a tie with Michelle Akers.

"Just doing my thing," Lloyd said. ""Just coming on trying to make a difference. Nothing has really changed from 2005 when I first got on this team."

The Americans controlled the play from the start, with the game played almost entirely in South Africa's end. But despite dominating possession, the U.S. generated few prime scoring chances early because several crosses and final passes just missed their targets inside the box.

Mewis had one of the best chances when her header off a cross from Tobin Heath sailed just over the crossbar. But Mewis made the most of her next opportunity in the 37th minute when she took a pass from Rose Lavelle near the top of the box. Mewis faked to her left, came back to the right and beat goalie Andile Dlamini with a shot from outside the box that went just inside the post.

The Americans kept up the pressure in the second half and finally added a second goalie after Dlamini left with an injury and was replaced by Kaylin Swart. Megan Rapinoe started the play with a quick restart after a foul and eventually sent a cross into the box. Swart deflected the pass but it went right off Mewis and into the net to make it 2-0 in the 78th minute. Mewis other two-goal game for the national team came in a friendly against South Korea in 2017.

Ellis was happy to face a team that bunkered down defensively as preparation after her team struggled to deal with that during a quarterfinal loss to Sweden in the 2016 Olympics.

"More than likely, we'll face a team like this in the World Cup," defender Kelly O'Hara said. "It's good to get in the practice. I think we could have been a bit better today. But that's why we have friendlies, to work on things."

This match is the first of three tuneups in the World Cup send-off series for the Americans, followed by a game Thursday against New Zealand in St. Louis and May 26 against Mexico in New Jersey.

The tournament starts June 7, and the U.S. pays its first match four days later against Thailand. The Americans will also play Chile and Sweden in the opening round.

The U.S. had its full roster in place and started close to the expected lineup in France with the exception of Lindsey Horan and Rapinoe, who came in as a second-half substitute. The game against the 49th ranked South Africans, who will make their first Women's World Cup appearance next month, didn't provide the stiffest test.

U.S. goalie Alyssa Naeher got little work with most of the action at the other end of the field but earned her second straight shutout and 23rd overall.

South Africa, which has another tuneup June 2 in France against Norway, plays its first World Cup match June 8 against Spain and will also play China and Germany in group play

Middle school caging semis cast complete

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Saipan Community School, Grace Christian Academy, and Mount Carmel School prevailed over their respective opponents to advance to the semifinals of the boys division of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Middle School Basketball League.

The No. 5 seed SCS upset No. 4 Saipan International School in the latter's court in As Lito, 45-36, to arrange a semis duel against the unbeaten Agape Christian School, which got an outright Final Four berth after topping the regular season.

Behind at 32-33, the Tsunamis went on a 13-2 scoring surge in the last four minutes to eliminate the Geckos.

Charlie McDonald anchored SCS' strong finish, as he scored 11 markers in the deciding frame, while Isaiah Aleksenko netted 6 of his 8 points in that period. Daniel Nam and Dylan Mister combined for three treys in an effort to keep the Geckos in the game, but they were not enough to prevent the Tsunamis from recording an upset.

SIS absorbed the sorry loss despite taking the early lead at the end of the first quarter. William Xue swished a 3-pointer and a midrange jumper, while Nam added 3 points for the Geckos' 8-6 lead. Aleksenko, McDonald, and Miles Borja scored one field goal apiece to keep SIS within striking distance.

The Geckos clung to the shaky lead heading into the break, 19-17, with Mister, Nam, and Xue combining for 11 points in the second quarter and Borja, McDonald, Daniel Kang, and Edward Diaz also teaming up for 11 markers for the Tsunamis.

Kang then kicked off SCS' offense in the third period, firing the team's first 7 points, while McDonald started to gain momentum, finishing the quarter with two layups to put the Tsunamis on top, 28-27.

McDonald's then kept going in the fourth to bring SCS to the semifinals. He led all scorers with his 21 points, while Kang and Aleksenko chipped in 10 and 8 markers, respectively.

Nam finished with 20 points, 12 came from the 3-point territory. Xue and Mister logged 8 markers apiece in the losing effort.

In other results, No. 3 GCA moved on to the semis after routing No. 7 Northern Marianas International School, 48-27, at the Eagles court in Navy Hill.

The Eagles held a slight advantage over the Phoenix heading into the break, 17-15, before finding their stride in the second half to send NMIS packing.

Ryan Daproza and Justin Du had 12 and 11, respectively, for GCA, while Jason Du and Railee Yumul contributed 6 markers apiece. Justin Mateo had 12 points for NMIS, while J.P. Pineda added 8.

Meanwhile, MCS got a free win and semis slot after No. 7 Seventh Day Adventist forfeited the quarterfinals match.

Mt. Carmel will next face GCA as they battle for the first finals berth tomorrow at 3:30pm at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Today, the semis round in the girls division will be played. No. 1 Agape will lock horns with the No. 4 SDA in the former's court in Gualo Rai, while the No. 2 MCS will face GCA at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

Saipan Community School's Charlie McDonald, left, is fouled by Saipan International School's Daniel Nam during their quarterfinals game in the CCOPSA middle school caging yesterday at the SIS court in As Lito. SCS won, 45-36, to advance to the semifinals.

Game 1

SCS 45—McDonald 21, Kang 10, Aleksenko 8, Borja 4, Diaz 2

SIS 36 —Nam 20, Mister 8, Xue 8,

Scoring by quarters: 6-8, 17-19, 28-27, 45-36

Game 2

GCA 48—Daproza 12, Jusin Du 11, Jason Du 6, Yumul 6, Lerio 4, Woo 3, Adriatico 2, Alepuyo 2, Magtalas 2.

NMIS 27—Mateo 12, Pineda 8, Balgos 4, Valdoz 3.

Scoring by quarters: 9-9, 17-15, 26-17, 48-27

FATHER

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berth. Nelson and Wesley went on to reassert their might over Quinn and Berline to get a second crack at the Misters.

With Tyce and Logan having a 2-0 record, they just have to beat Wesley and Nelson only once to take the Qualifier 2 and they did, avenging their earlier loss to their rivals in the pool play.

Nelson and Wesley swept pool play, earning a 3-0 mark to get the top seeding in the playoffs, while the Misters had the second-best mark at 2-1.

The qualifiers, practices, and overall skill performance of the players will be considered in selecting the CNMI's representatives to the Pacific Games that will run from July 7 to 20.

QUITUGUA

From Page 28

in second place after recording 25.01 seconds and Saipan International School's Robbie Schorr coming in at third following his 25.26 seconds.

In the 100m run, Quitugua's 11.37 gave him his first gold medal in the competition. The silver medal went to Agape Christian School's Kobe Yang (11.95 seconds), while Roligat settled for the bronze after registering 12.34 seconds.

In the four other running events, Santos recorded 53.75 seconds (400m), 2:16.41 (800m), 4:42.40 (1,500m), and 10:35.63 (3,000m) to earn the most gold medals in the division. He defeated Agape's Jonathan Xiong (10:40.33) and Ray Qi (11:49.11) and six other runners in the 3,000m run.

Agape also made it to the podium in the 1,500m race with Xiong (4:43.96) and Peter Wang (5:08.28) joining Santos in the Top 3, while the former was the runner-up, too in the 800m run after checking in at 2:16.59. Wang (2:23.66) rounded out the Top 3 in the 800m run, while his teammate, Kobe Yang (55.86 seconds) was ranked third in the 400m run behind Santos and Quitugua (54.52 seconds).

Meanwhile, after missing the gold medal in a couple of running events, Xiong finally bagged one in the long jump. The Agape student posted 5.99 meters to lead their school's 1-2-3 finish in the event, as Yang and Arthur Liang got the silver and bronze after logging 5.85m and 5.41m, respectively.

In other results, Francisco Kumuch handed Kagman High School a pair of gold medals after winning the high jump and discus throw. Kumuch recorded 30.80m in the discus throw to prevail against Tinian's Manuel Quitugua (29.69m) and Leorich Epity (29.39m). In the high jump, Kumuch's 1.65m edged the 1.63m of Saipan Southern's Glen Matalog and Tinian's J.C. Guinto.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tinian Junior Senior High School's Tyler Santos, right, is congratulated by a one of the volunteers at the 2019 Public School System/ McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships during the awards ceremony for the 800m run held last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The gold medals in the two other field events went to Tinian with Epity registering 10.29m to top the shot out contest and Devin Cing tallying 41.75m to rule the javelin throw. Kumuch slid to second place in the javelin with his 39.88m, while SIS' Steven Goodwin completed the Top 3 with his 38.27m. In the shot put, Tinian had a 1-2 finish with Quitugua (10.26m) joining Epity and Marianas High School's Neldreyton Skerei (10.08m) in the podium.

Besides the boys U18 participants, last weekend's competition also featured student-athletes in the boys and girls U14 and girls U18 and results will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Wednesday and Thursday editions.

MPU

From Page 28

Kanoa-1's silence, but Steele offset that with his second goal in the 58th minute and MP United hung on, as it repeatedly frustrated its opponents.

Had Kanoa at least force a draw in last weekend's game, it would have gotten the division crown outright.

Shirley's 2, TanHoldings 1

In the second game last Saturday, Shirley's nosed out TanHoldings.

Devin Igisomar drilled the go-ahead for Shirley's with his goal in the 50th minute. Gabriel Arkoh Jr. tallied the other goal for Shirley's in the seventh minute to help the team finish the season with five victories.

Taro Goto scored the only goal for TanHoldings, which also posted five wins in the competition.

Matansa 3, Kanoa-2 0

Matansa ended its season with a shutout win over Kanoa-2.

Xin Wen Jin, Jose Rafael Lopez, and Philip Megino teamed up in handing Matansa its second victory this season—both came from the winless Kanoa-2. Jin scored in the seventh minute, while Lopez lit up the board eight minutes later, and Megino closed out for Matansa in the 41st minute.

BOYS U18 TanHoldings 3, Matansa 2

TanHoldings wrapped up the season with a close win over Matansa last Friday.

Mark Esalan notched a pair of goals for TanHoldings, while Jonathan Capayas registered the other one.

Joshua Deleon and Ronnel Ocanada scored for Matansa with the former's shot in the 15th minute tying the game after Capayas earlier in the third minute handed TanHoldings the lead.

TanHoldings went on to regain the upper hand off Esalan's goal in the 27th minute, while the striker's conversion in the 56th gave the squad insurance. Ocanada posted the last goal in the game in the 72nd minute.

ROSELYNB. MONROYO

MP United Football Club's Cody Shimizu, right, is set to kick the ball, while Markus Toves defends him during the second half of their boys U15 division game in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

CNMI Boys U15 5, Kanoa 2

In the other match in the division, the CNMI Boys U15 National Team outclassed Kanoa.

Four different players scored for the CNMI U15 with Oliver Fajardo leading the way after making two goals. Akira Kadokura, Gabriel Arkoh Jr., and Xin Wen Jin chipped in one goal each.

Ian Maniago and Jacob Montes-Sabino tallied the two goals for Kanoa.

NMIFA Spring Youth League Standings
(Unofficial Final Team Standings)

BOYS U15 DIVISION

Teams	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Kanoa-1	10	9	0	1	75	8	67	27
MP United	10	9	0	1	55	8	57	27
TanHoldings	10	5	0	5	40	31	9	15
Shirley's	10	5	0	5	35	35	0	15
Matansa	10	2	0	8	17	46	-29	6
Kanoa-2	10	0	0	10	6	100	-94	0

Ryu flirts with no-hitter in Nationals win

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Kawhi's buzzer-beater brings Raptors to East finals

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MPU stays in contention for boys U15 crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club foiled Kanoa Football Club-1's title bid after earning a 4-1 victory in the final regular season game in the boys U15 division of the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

With the win, MP United finished the double-round robin competition with a 9-0-1 win-draw-loss record—the same mark Kanoa-1 had. With the two teams in a deadlock, they have to meet anew in a playoff game to decide the winner of the division championship this season, as per league rules.

According to Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, league rules call for a tie (at the end of the regular season) to be resolved first via head-to-head record. Kanoa-1 and MP United, incidentally, split their two games with the former winning their first duel last March 30. With the two teams still in a standoff, the next tiebreaker is a playoff match, which NMIFA proposed to be held on May 25.

Richard Steele led MP United's crucial triumph over Kanoa-1 after firing two goals in the hotly contested match. Dylan Mister and Justin Weaver contributed one goal each, while Merrick Toves delivered the lone goal for Kanoa-1.

Mister drew first blood after converting a penalty kick in the 33rd minute. MP United went on to keep the shaky 1-0 lead at the break before opening a 3-0 cushion early in the second half. Weaver opened MP United's scoring in the second half with his goal in the 42nd minute, while Steele hit the board four minutes later to widen the gap.

A shot from Toves in the 52nd minute finally ended

See MPU on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United Football players battle a Kanoa Football Club player for possession during the first half of their boys U15 division game in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Quitugua, Santos deliver

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Southern High School's Traven Quitugua, fifth left, leads the finalists in the boys U18's 100m race during the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships held over the weekend at the Oleai Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School's Traven Quitugua and Tinian Junior Senior High School's Tyler Santos lived up to high expectations after ruling their respective events in the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships held over the weekend at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Quitugua proved once again that he's the sprints king in the CNMI after ruling the 100m and 200m races, while not to be outdone was Santos, who swept the remaining running events in the boys U18 division.

The Manta Rays runner clocked in at 23.29 seconds in the 200m run to finish way ahead of the pack. The seven other finalists in the sprint event timed in at 25 seconds and up with Marianas High School's Oldie Roligat

See QUITUGUA on Page 27

Father and son triumph anew

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tyce and Logan Mister picked up where they left off after winning the Men's Beach Volleyball Samoa Qualifier 2 held last Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan sand courts.

The father-and-son pair, who topped Qualifier 1 last month, defeated Chris Nelson and Tyler Wesley in the finals of the second and last leg of the trials that were held to select the CNMI's representatives to the 2019 Pacific Games this summer.

The Misters made it to the championship round of the double-elimination tournament after defeating Mike Omar and Jerret Rosario in their first game and downing Wesley and Nelson in the winner's bracket semis. Nelson and Wesley, before bowing to Tyce and Logan, prevailed over Bruce Berline and Russ Quinn to advance to the winner's bracket semis.

Berline and Quinn, who eliminated Rosario and Omar to remain in contention, then met Wesley and Nelson anew for the second and last finals

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